

August 25, 2009

To Williamson County Commissioners Court

Recommendation regarding WilCo Care payment rates for primary care office visits

For all primary care providers:

- 1) \$70 base payment established for primary care office visits. That is, if the Medicaid rate pays out at less than \$70 for the office visit code, the visit will be paid at \$70. (lower rates range from \$34 to \$63 per visit)
- 2) If the primary care visit is a more complex visit, and the Medicaid rate is greater than \$70, the visit will be paid at the standard Medicaid payment rate. (More complex office visits could pay out at \$124 or \$137, for example. The codes are based upon diagnosis and the number of minutes spent with the patient.)
- 3) Other services provided in the course of the same visit will be paid at standard Medicaid payment rates per code, routine procedure.

This would address concerns about the costs of providing care to the patients with more complex needs, and would be fair to all providers. Bear in mind that these Medicaid rates typically run about 27-29% of the billed rate.