

Resolution 208-14 TITLE: Permitting Same-Day Visits for Different Specialties to Promote Integrated Care

Author(s): California Academy of Preventive Medicinepreventivemed@aol.com

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Reference Committee: B

WHEREAS, combining medical and behavioral health services on the same day into “integrated behavioral health” is a model that has been spreading in primary care clinics due to its proven clinical effectiveness and cost effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, many patients with complex medical conditions such as HIV, diabetes, or cardiovascular diseases may need consultations involving additional specialties, which if performed on the same day could lead to better coordination of care among the providers; and

WHEREAS, many patients lack transportation or have difficulty leaving work, child care, or elder care, so in order to best provide integrated services to patients, many community clinics provide medical and mental health or multiple medical services on the same day; and

WHEREAS, federal Medicaid law permits reimbursement for same-day medical visits by different specialties, including primary care and mental health visits, and federal matching funds are provided for states that choose to allow same-day visits, but California does not take advantage of these federal funds; and

WHEREAS, Medi-Cal will reimburse same-day medical and dental visits, but will not reimburse for a patient to see a primary care provider and a mental health provider, or different medical specialists, on the same day even for separate diagnoses, and will reimburse only one visit, unless there is a subsequent illness or injury on that day; and

WHEREAS, this results in an unfortunate choice for clinics, of providing uncompensated care, or else scheduling multiple appointments on different days that will be difficult for patients to keep and do not optimize coordinated care; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That CMA support legislation or regulations that would permit Medi-Cal reimbursement for multiple medical and behavioral specialty services on the same day, if those services would currently be compensated when performed on separate days.