

**Evidence Based Practices
Assertive Community Treatment (ACT)**

Service and Reimbursement Methods

DMA Health Strategies is undertaking a project for SAMHSA to develop options for rate setting and reimbursement of Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), an evidence based practice for the treatment and support of seriously mentally ill adults. The goal of the project is to develop recommendations for setting ACT rates and reimbursement methods that conform to Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services regulations, create appropriate incentives, are based on meaningful units of service, and are administratively efficient. This project will draw upon the extensive documentation of ACT and will solicit input from ACT purchasers, providers, consumers and researchers.

DMA will draft standardized definitions of ACT service components identified through review of the literature and SAMHSA implementation materials. These draft definitions will be reviewed by SAMHSA, selected CMS and state officials, state purchasers, ACT providers, and consumer organizations to ensure that they capture existing state ACT standards and variations in practice. DMA will then match service components to relevant CPT and HCPC codes to prepare a crosswalk between the codes and specific service definitions. Service elements that cannot be matched to an existing code will be identified, and DMA will develop reimbursement strategies for those services.

DMA will also collect information on the reimbursement methods that states currently use for ACT services. We will develop a matrix that summarizes the key parameters of current reimbursement strategies in order to identify any regulatory and legal issues and requirements, and develop any needed alternative approaches. DMA will develop recommendations that outline options for setting ACT rates and reimbursement methods based upon discrete service codes as well as blended and case rate strategies that will meet CMS audit requirements.

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