

Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders

May 21, 2014 summary minutes

The minutes from the March 19, 2014 meeting were approved. Main topic of the discussion was ways to bill for medical evaluation of functional limitations in guardianship cases.

Guests present at the meeting were:

- Julie Ewing, Assistant Director, Bureau of Managed Healthcare, Utah Department of Health
- Caryn Slack, Medicaid Medical Director, Utah Department of Health
- Kerri McDonald, Director, Billing and Operations, University of Utah Medical Billing
- Sue Birkner-Anderson, Inpatient Social Worker, Mental Health Liaison, VA SLC Healthcare System

It was indicated that evaluation of functional limitations is a non-medical activity and hence could not be billed as such. Evaluation could be considered as part of “counseling and care coordination”.

Summary of Medicaid history was provided: set up in 1960s it was meant to provide care for pregnant women and children, it did not cover non-pregnant adult population and billing codes were very limited. Medicaid coverage is means based. In case of undocumented immigrants, only emergency care will be provided under Medicaid.

Discussion further moved to Medicare that is age based and covers 65+ population. Within Medicare, if a third party requests capacity assessment it will not be covered. Within the VA system assessment has to be ordered by a primary physician, and Medicare is billed first to avoid “double dipping” for coverage.

The route that was agreed upon is the following:

1. Person becomes a patient of the medical specialist.
2. Medical professional provides referral for capacity evaluation.
3. As part of the “coordination of care” an assessment of functional limitations is provided.

Committee identified the need in: developing a written document on ways to get medical evaluation paid for, receiving feedback from the medical community and further distributing the document among medical and legal professionals that deal with guardianship cases.

Another topic discussed was continuing legal education (CLE) on medical evidence of incapacity for judges and attorneys. Kent Alderman, Rob Denton and Norman Foster are taking the lead on developing materials for the CLE and organizing it with the Utah State Bar Elder Law Section.

Committee Chair, Tim Shea, has resigned from WINGS, as he took the job of the Appellate Court Administrator, and Brent Johnson, Courts’ General Counsel, assumed the role as the new Chair.

Next WINGS meeting was scheduled on June 18, 2014.