



**VETERANS AFFAIRS CANADA (VAC)
PROGRAM OF CHOICE (POC) 12 – PSYCHOLOGISTS
BENEFIT GRID UPDATE – ALL PROVINCES**

June 2011

Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) is reducing the complexity and improving the service delivery of its treatment benefits program by updating the benefit grids so that most services/items will only require pre-authorization the first time a Veteran accesses the benefit. In many cases, subsequent requests by the Veteran for the same benefit will not have to meet the pre-authorization requirement, saving the provider time and effort as well as making it easier for the Veteran to obtain the service/item.

In some cases, however, services may continue to require pre-approval and you may be contacted by a VAC representative to provide progress reports (using objective measures where possible) or assessments.

VAC has set the frequency limit for Psychologist services at **12 per calendar year** for the benefits listed in the following table. If the Veteran’s treatment plan requires more than 12 sessions per calendar year, please contact the VAC Treatment Authorization Centre 1-866-811-6060 **{1-866-812-6060 for French Bulletin}** and provide the Veteran’s treatment plan or progress report to obtain approval for additional sessions.

As is current practice, the first time a Veteran requires Psychologist services an initial assessment report will be required. VAC may continue to request progress reports, outlining client progress toward the clinical objectives (using objective measures where possible), at regular intervals for Veterans in active treatment. An End of Treatment Summary Report is required at the end of involvement with client. Providers will be paid to conduct an assessment, write an Assessment Report, and write the Progress Reports as well as the End of Treatment Summary Report.

| BENEFIT CODE | DESCRIPTION |
|---------------------|--|
| 249053 | Psychologist – Couple or Family Visit |
| 249040 | Psychologist – Individual Visit |
| 249008 | Psychologist – Group Therapy for Client |
| 249006 | Psychologist – Group Therapy for Family Member |
| 249004 | Psychologist – Specialized Outpatient Treatment Programs For Client |
| 249002 | Psychologist – Specialized Outpatient Treatment Programs for Family Member |

Providers will be reimbursed their usual and customary charges to a maximum of the dollar limits indicated on the benefit grid. Existing rules regarding prescription requirements continue to apply.

Should you have any questions, please contact your regional Blue Cross office Provider Inquiry Line toll free at 1-888-261-4033.

In the future we would like to communicate with you by e-mail. Please visit the Medavie Blue Cross website at www.medavie.bluecross.ca and click on the *Health Professionals* link, then scroll down to the *Update Your Contact Information* link. Enter your information on the Provider Application page to send us your e-mail address or to update other contact information. Your e-mail address will be added to our electronic mailing list and will only be used to keep you up to date on important changes to programs and benefits (i.e. rates, frequencies, etc.) via e-mail. You can also visit the Blue Cross website to view all provider bulletins, and to download and print claim forms.

Thank you for the ongoing care and service you provide to our Veterans.