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KCMU Medicaid Benefits Database: Acronyms

ACA: The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, also called the health care reform law

ADL: Activities of Daily Living – a term used to describe an individual’s need for Personal Care services

APC: Ambulatory Payment Classifications – a methodology used by the Medicare program and a number of state Medicaid programs to group outpatient hospital services that are similar clinically and in terms of the resources they require such that an all-inclusive payment may be made

APG: Ambulatory Patient Group – a methodology similar to APCs used to group and reimburse outpatient hospital services; there are different versions of this methodology, such as Enhanced APGs (EAPGs)

ASA: American Society of Anesthesiologists – an organization setting base rates for anesthesia services

ASC: Ambulatory Surgery Center – a freestanding facility providing outpatient surgical services

AWP: Average Wholesale Price – a term historically used in prescription drug pricing

BIPA: Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2000 – a federal law dictating reimbursement rates for FQHCs and RHCs

BBA: Balanced Budget Act of 1997 – a federal law providing states an option to cover working disabled persons with income higher than would generally permit coverage under the Medicaid program

CHIP: Children’s Health Insurance Program – created in 1997 through addition of Title XXI to the Social Security Act – until 2009 the acronym was SCHIP

CHIPRA: Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act – the 2009 law that reauthorized CHIP and included other provisions affecting Medicaid

CMS: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

CN: Categorically Needy

CRNA: Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist

CT: CT Scan - Computerized Axial Tomography

DAW: Dispense As Written – a term related to the dispensing of prescription drugs

DME: Durable Medical Equipment

DMEPOS: Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics and Supplies

DP: Direct Price – a term used in prescription drug pricing

DRA: Deficit Reduction Act of 2005

DRG: Diagnosis Related Groups – a per-discharge reimbursement methodology that bases payment on a patient’s age, primary diagnosis and procedures rendered during an inpatient hospital stay; there are multiple DRG models, including AP-DRGs, APR-DRGs and MS-DRGs

EPSDT: Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment

ER: Emergency Room, or Emergency Department of a hospital

FQHC: Federally Qualified Health Center

FUL: Federal Upper Limit – a term used in prescription drug pricing

HIFA: Health Insurance Flexibility and Accountability – a type of Section 1115 Waiver

ICF/IID: Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (formerly called Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded/Developmentally Disabled)

ICU: Intensive Care Unit

IMD: Institution for Mental Diseases – a hospital or nursing facility for inpatient treatment of persons with mental illness

LOC: Level of Care

LOS: Length of Stay

LTACH: Long-Term Acute Care Hospital

LTC: Long-Term Care

MAC: Maximum Allowable Cost – a term used in prescription drug pricing alternatively with SMAC

MN: Medically Needy

MSW: Medical Social Worker

OPPS: Outpatient Hospital Prospective Payment System

OT: Occupational Therapy

OTC: Over the Counter, as in drugs available without a prescription

PDL: Preferred Drug List

PIHP: Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan – an entity that provides specialty services, often related to mental health and substance abuse that are generally reimbursed on a capitation basis

PPS: Prospective Payment System

PRTF: Private Residential Treatment Facility

PT: Physical Therapy

RBRVS: Resource Based Relative Value Scale – often used in setting reimbursement rates for physician services

RHC: Rural Health Clinic

RN: Registered Nurse

RX: Prescription

SBIRT: Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral for Treatment – a term used relative to substance abuse services

SMAC: State Maximum Allowable Cost – a term used in prescription drug pricing alternatively with MAC

SP: Speech Pathology – sometimes called Speech Therapy

SWP: Suggested Wholesale Price – a term used in prescription drug pricing

TWWIIA: Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 – a federal law providing states an option to cover working disabled persons with income higher than would generally permit coverage under Medicaid

USPSTF: US Preventive Services Task Force – a panel of health care experts that evaluates the latest scientific evidence on clinical preventive services

WAC: Wholesale Acquisition Cost – a term used in prescription drug pricing