

Standby Services Policy, Professional

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT THIS REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

You are responsible for submission of accurate claims. This reimbursement policy is intended to ensure that you are reimbursed based on the code or codes that correctly describe the health care services provided. UnitedHealthcare reimbursement policies may use Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) or other coding guidelines. References to CPT or other sources are for definitional purposes only and do not imply any right to reimbursement.

This reimbursement policy applies to all health care services billed on CMS 1500 forms and, when specified, to those billed on UB04 forms. Coding methodology, industry-standard reimbursement logic, regulatory requirements, benefits design and other factors are considered in developing reimbursement policy.

This information is intended to serve only as a general reference resource regarding UnitedHealthcare's reimbursement policy for the services described and is not intended to address every aspect of a reimbursement situation. Accordingly, UnitedHealthcare may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying this policy to health care services provided in a particular case. Further, the policy does not address all issues related to reimbursement for health care services provided to UnitedHealthcare enrollees. Other factors affecting reimbursement may supplement, modify or, in some cases, supersede this policy. These factors may include, but are not limited to: legislative mandates, the physician or other provider contracts, the enrollee's benefit coverage documents and/or other reimbursement, medical or drug policies. Finally, this policy may not be implemented exactly the same way on the different electronic claims processing systems used by UnitedHealthcare due to programming or other constraints; however, UnitedHealthcare strives to minimize these variations. UnitedHealthcare may modify this reimbursement policy at any time by publishing a new version of the policy on this Website. However, the information presented in this policy is accurate and current as of the date of publication.

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Application

This reimbursement policy applies to services reported using the 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form (a/k/a CMS-1500) or its electronic equivalent or its successor form. This policy applies to all products, all network and non-network physicians and other qualified health care professionals, including, but not limited to, non-network authorized and percent of charge contract physicians and other qualified health care professionals.

Policy

Overview

This reimbursement policy addresses reimbursement for standby services and hospital mandated on call services.

Current Procedural Terminology

Per Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) definition, code 99360 is used to report physician or other qualified health care professional standby services that are requested by another individual that involves prolonged attendance without direct (face-to-face) patient contact. Care or services may not be provided to other patients during this period. This code is not used to report time spent proctoring another individual. It is also not used if the period of standby ends with the performance of a procedure subject to a surgical package by the individual who was on standby.

Reimbursement Guidelines

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) does not reimburse for physician standby services. These services are considered by CMS to be included in the payment to a facility as part of providing quality care and are not separately reimbursable.

Standby Services

In accordance with CMS, UnitedHealthcare does not reimburse physician or other qualified health care professional standby services submitted with CPT code 99360. If a specific service is directly rendered to the patient by the standby physician or other qualified health care professional (i.e., tissue examination of frozen section biopsy), the service or procedure would be reported under the appropriate CPT code (i.e., 88331).

Mandated Hospital On Call Service

UnitedHealthcare does not reimburse for hospital mandated on call services billed under CPT codes 99026 and 99027 because they do not involve direct patient contact.

Questions and Answers

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| 1 | <p>Q: If a pediatrician or other physician is requested by the delivering physician to attend at delivery and provide services to stabilize a newborn, are those services considered standby services?</p> <p>A: No. If a physician is requested by the delivering physician to attend at delivery and to provide stabilization of a newborn, the physician may bill for those direct face-to-face services provided to the newborn using CPT code 99464.</p> |
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Codes

99026	99027	99360
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Resources

American Medical Association, *Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®)* and associated publications and services

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS Manual System and other CMS publications and services

History

8/22/2023	Policy Version Change Logo Updated History Section - Entries prior to 8/22/2021 archived
7/6/2023	Annual Policy Version Change
1/1/1997	Policy implemented by UnitedHealthcare Employer & Individual