

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan

Reimbursement Policy Update Bulletin: December 2021

New			
Policy title	State(s)	Policy summary	Effective date
Observation Services Policy, Facility	New Jersey	<p>In alignment with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) guidelines, effective for dates of service on or after 12/1/2021, UnitedHealthcare Community plan will implement the following changes to the Observation Services Policy for facility claims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation hours of less than 8 units for HCPCS code G0378 will be denied • Observation services must be submitted on the same date of service or the day after one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency department visit, clinic visit or critical care • Direct referral for observation care reported with HCPCS code G0379 must be reported on the same date of service as the date reported for observation • Code G0379 is not separately reimbursable when a critical care service, clinic service, emergency department visit, or service assigned a status indicator of T or V under the CMS Integrated Outpatient Code Editor (IOCE) is reported on the same date of service • Observation services should be reported on a single line, and not be reported with a date span, even when the period of observation spans more than 1 calendar day • Observation services should not be reported in addition to procedure codes that are assigned a status indicator J1 or T under the CMS IOCE • The policy will continue to deny observation hours in excess of 48 units for HCPCS code G0378. 	December 1, 2021