

Claims Clarification: Cesarean Sections

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan in Texas is sharing this information so you know what is required when billing for a cesarean section.

According to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), a plan for vaginal delivery is safe and appropriate and should be recommended to patients in the absence of maternal or fetal indications for cesarean delivery.

For this reason, we'll review claims submitted for cesarean delivery to determine if it was medically necessary, based on the submitted ICD-10 diagnosis codes for dates of service on or after Jan. 1, 2021.

Correct Billing Codes

The ICD-10 diagnosis codes considered high risk were defined by the Joint Commission National Quality Measures, along with the addition of diagnosis codes determined by UnitedHealthcare Community Plan to support a cesarean delivery.

Cesarean deliveries performed electively that don't include a high-risk diagnosis will not be denied but will not be reimbursed at the allowable amount of a vaginal delivery. The covered ICD-10 diagnoses codes are:

- 59514: Cesarean delivery only
- 59515: Cesarean delivery only; including postpartum care
- 59620: Cesarean delivery only, following attempted vaginal delivery after previous cesarean delivery
- 59622: Cesarean delivery only, following attempted vaginal delivery after previous cesarean delivery, including postpartum care

Modifiers

One of the following modifiers must be billed with the procedure codes:

- U1: Prior to 39 weeks and medically necessary
- U2: 39 weeks or later
- U3: Prior to 39 weeks and not medically necessary

Resources

For more information on policies and coverage determination guidelines, go to UHCprovider.com/TXcommunityplan > Policies and Clinical Guidelines > UnitedHealthcare Community Plan Medical & Drug Policies and Coverage Determination Guidelines > Current Policies > [Reimbursement Policies for Community Plan](#) > Cesarean Delivery Reimbursement Policy, Professional - UnitedHealthcare Community Plan.

We're Here to Help

If you have questions, please contact your Physician Advocate directly or call 888-887-9003, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. Central Time, Monday – Friday. Thank you.