

Modifier SU 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 policy sets forth UnitedHealthcare's policy regarding reimbursement for claims appended with modifier SU, *Procedure performed in physician's office (to denote use of facility and equipment)*, in an office place of service.

Reimbursement Guidelines

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) indicates that the Health Care Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) modifier SU, *Procedure performed in physician's office (to denote use of facility and equipment)*, is not payable. CMS establishes Relative Value Units (RVU) for CPT and HCPCS codes that include the costs of running an office (such as rent, equipment, supplies and nonphysician staff costs) which are referred to as the practice expense RVU. In accordance with CMS, UnitedHealthcare does not allow reimbursement for services appended with modifier SU in an office place of service since the use of the office facility and equipment is included in the practice expense RVU, or the costs associated with operating an office.

If the charges associated with the use of the modifier SU are submitted by a different provider than the physician performing the office procedure, they will not be considered for separate reimbursement since these practice expenses are considered included in the reimbursement for the physician performing the service.

Definitions

Relative Value Units

The assigned unit value of a particular CPT or HCPCS code. The associated RVU is either from the CMS NPFS Non-Facility Total value or Facility Total value.

Questions and Answers

1

Q: Does UnitedHealthcare provide reimbursement for modifier SU to denote use of facility and equipment?

A: No. When billed in an office place of service, UnitedHealthcare does not reimburse any service appended with modifier SU since the costs associated with operating an office are included in the reimbursement to the physician performing the service.

Resources

American Medical Association, *Coding with Modifiers*

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

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System, HCPCS Release and Code Sets

History

2/1/2019

Annual Anniversary Date and Version Change
Title Section: Added the word "Professional" to title, Removed Annual Approval information & moved policy # to the header
Application Section: Removed reference to M&R and C&S lines of business
History Section: Entries prior to 1/1/2017 archived

3/14/2018

Policy Approval Date Change (no new version)

1/1/2018 – 1/31/2019

Annual Policy Version Change
History Section: Entries prior to 1/1/2016 archived

3/8/2017

Policy Approval Date Change (no new version)

1/1/2017

Annual Policy Version Change
History Section: Entries prior to 1/1/2015 archived