

Nonphysician Health Care Codes 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 and 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 describes the correct coding methodology and reimbursement for certain nonphysician health care professional services.

The American Medical Association *Current Procedural Terminology* (CPT®) Professional Edition gives the following instruction for code selection: “Select the name of the procedure or service that accurately identifies the service performed. Do not select a CPT code that merely approximates the service provided.”

The American Medical Association (AMA) has developed specific CPT codes intended for use by qualified health care professionals who are not Physicians to report their services. In some instances, the intended use of a procedure or service is within the description of the code. For example, CPT 98960 describes education and training for patient self-management by a qualified, nonphysician health care professional. In other instances, the AMA has included parenthetical information in the CPT book as with CPT 96040 which says, “These services are provided by trained genetic counselors and may include obtaining a structured family genetic history, pedigree construction, analysis for genetic risk assessment, and counseling of the patient and family.”

Conversely, the AMA instructs Physicians who provide genetic counseling and education, risk factor reduction intervention or medical nutrition therapy to use the appropriate evaluation and management codes to report these services. Existing evaluation and management codes include services such as taking a patient’s health and family history and counseling.

Therefore, in accordance with correct coding guidelines, UnitedHealthcare will not reimburse nonphysician health care professional service codes listed in the Code Section below when reported by a Physician, because these codes are intended for use by nonphysician health care professionals. Physicians who provide genetic counseling, health and behavior assessment/intervention, medical nutrition therapy, education and training for patient self-management or medication therapy management should report these services using appropriate evaluation and management codes.

Definitions

Physician | A Doctor of Medicine (MD) or Doctor of Osteopathy (DO)

Questions and Answers

1	<p>Q: If a Physician reports codes from the Health and Behavior Assessment/Intervention series using CPT 96156, 96158-96159, 96164-96165, 96167-96168, 96170-96171 will he or she be reimbursed?</p> <p>A: No. CPT 96156, 96158-96159, 96164-96165, 96167-96168, 96170-96171 should only be reported by qualified nonphysician health care professionals. As indicated in the parenthetical note following the Health and Behavior Assessment/Intervention guidelines in the CPT book, Physicians performing health and behavior assessments/interventions should report the appropriate Evaluation and Management or Preventive Medicine service codes.</p>
2	<p>Q: What would be the appropriate CPT or HCPCS code for a registered dietitian to report for medical nutrition therapy services?</p> <p>A: Registered dietitians should report specific CPT or HCPCS codes that accurately identify the service performed using CPT codes 97802-97804 and HCPCS codes G0270-G0271.</p>

Codes

96041	96156	96158	96159	96164	96165	96167	96168	96170	96171
97802	97803	97804	98960	98961	98962	99605	99606	99607	G0270
G0271	G2251	G0323							

Resources

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

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

History

1/1/2026	Policy Version Change History Section: Entries prior to 1/1/2024 archived
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1/1/2025	Policy Version Change Code Section: Code list has been updated History Section: Entries prior to 1/1/2023 archived
9/14/2013	Policy implemented by UnitedHealthcare Employer & Individual
2/13/2013	Policy approved by the National Reimbursement Forum