

## **Pediatric and Neonatal Critical and Intensive Care 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.*

*\*CPT® Copyright American Medical Association. All rights reserved. CPT® is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association.*

### **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.

#### **United Healthcare Commercial**

This Reimbursement Policy applies to all UnitedHealthcare Commercial benefit plans.

#### **UnitedHealthcare Individual Exchange**

This Reimbursement Policy applies to all Individual Exchange benefit plans.

### **Policy**

#### **Overview**

This policy addresses the reporting of pediatric and neonatal critical and intensive care services, Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) codes 99468-99476 and 99477-99480, based on instruction from the American Medical Association (AMA) CPT book.

#### **Reimbursement Guidelines**

CPT instruction gives specific direction for the appropriate reporting of pediatric and neonatal critical and intensive care codes 99468-99476 and 99477-99480. This direction applies to situations when pediatric and neonatal critical and/or intensive care services are performed for the same patient, on the same day, with certain procedure services. CPT

direction specifies what codes to report and what codes are considered inclusive in situations where multiple services are performed for the pediatric or neonatal patient requiring critical and/or intensive care. CPT applies these reporting instructions to physicians and/or Other Qualified Health Care Professionals in the same group.

UnitedHealthcare follows the AMA guidelines with respect to the reporting of pediatric and neonatal critical and intensive care codes 99468-99476 and 99477-99480. When services considered inclusive are reported on the same day with a pediatric and neonatal critical or intensive care code by the Same Group Physician and/or Other Qualified Health Care Professional, those services will be considered for separate reimbursement or bundled into 99468-99476 and 99477-99480 in accordance with those edits outlined in the following link:

[Medicare National Correct Coding Initiative \(NCCI\) Edits](#)

### Modifiers

CPT direction indicates that certain procedure services are included in, and not reported separately from, pediatric and neonatal critical and intensive care services. CPT does not give direction indicating where it would be appropriate to allow for a modifier override when pediatric and neonatal critical and intensive care codes are reported with a specified procedure code on the same day for the same patient by the Same Group Physician and/or Other Qualified Health Care Professional. In this circumstance UnitedHealthcare will follow the CMS National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) to determine if a modifier override could be allowed if appropriate.

Modifiers			
59	XE	XS	XU

### Definitions

<b>Same Group Physician and/or Other Qualified Health Care Professional</b>	All Physicians and/or Other Qualified Health Care Professionals of the same group reporting the same Federal Tax Identification number.
---	---

### Questions and Answers

1	<b>Q:</b> If pediatric and neonatal critical and/or intensive care services are performed for the same patient on the same day as other evaluation and management (E/M) services, are both of these services reimbursable?
	<b>A:</b> Pediatric and neonatal critical and/or intensive care services may be subject to additional UnitedHealthcare reimbursement policies. Refer to UnitedHealthcare's Same Day/Same Service policy for further details regarding reimbursement of E/M codes billed on the same day by physicians and/or Other Qualified Health Care Professionals in the same group practice who are of the same specialty, and UnitedHealthcare's Rebundling policy for information regarding reimbursement of E/M codes billed on the same day by the same individual physician and/or Other Qualified Health Care Professional.

### Resources

American Medical Association, *Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®)* and associated publications and services  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) publications

History	
7/21/2025	Policy Version Change Policy Verbiage update
4/1/2024	<b>Template Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transferred content to shared policy template that applies to both UnitedHealthcare Commercial and Individual Exchange benefit plans.</li><li>• Updated Application section to indicate this Reimbursement Policy applies to:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ All UnitedHealthcare Commercial benefit plans</li><li>○ All Individual Exchange benefit plans</li></ul></li></ul>
8/25/2023	Policy Version Change History Section: Dates prior to 8/25/2021 have been removed
3/1/2015	Policy implemented by UnitedHealthcare Employer & Individual
8/13/2014	Policy approved by the Payment Policy Oversight Committee