

Microsurgery 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 Value & Balance Exchange 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 Value & Balance Exchange's reimbursement policy for the services described and is not intended to address every aspect of a reimbursement situation. Accordingly, UnitedHealthcare Value & Balance Exchange 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 Value & Balance Exchange 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 Value & Balance Exchange due to programming or other constraints; however, UnitedHealthcare Value & Balance Exchange strives to minimize these variations.

UnitedHealthcare Value & Balance Exchange 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 UnitedHealthcare Value & Balance Exchange products.

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

Microsurgical Technique is the use of an operating microscope during a surgical procedure. Use of an operating microscope, reported with Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) codes 64727 and 69990, is a reimbursable service in specified instances.

For the purpose of this policy, the Same Individual Physician or Other Health Care Professional is the same individual rendering health care services reporting the same Federal Tax Identification number.

Reimbursement Guidelines

CPT Code 64727



Consistent with the *CPT* book coding guidelines for CPT code 64727, UnitedHealthcare Value & Balance Exchange will only reimburse CPT code 64727 when submitted with internal neurolysis codes on the "Services Allowed with CPT 64627" list.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Medicare Claims Processing Manual, and the Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) state that CPT code 69990 is not to be reported in addition to CPT code 64727.

CPT Code 69990

CMS reimbursement guidelines differ from the *CPT* book coding guidelines. UnitedHealthcare Value & Balance Exchange follows CMS reimbursement guidelines for reimbursement of 69990 with certain nervous system surgeries.

UnitedHealthcare Value & Balance Exchange will reimburse CPT code 69990 when billed in conjunction with the services described in the "Services Allowed with CPT 69990" list.

Definitions

Microsurgery	The use of a microscope during a surgical procedure to perform Microsurgical Technique.
Microsurgical Technique	A surgical technique for dissecting tissues with a microscope.
Same Individual Physician or Other Qualified Health Care Professional	The same individual rendering health care services reporting the same Federal Tax Identification number.



Questions and Answers

1	<p>Q: Why does UnitedHealthcare Value & Balance Exchange choose to follow the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) guidelines rather than the <i>CPT</i> book guidelines for bundling of code 69990?</p> <p>A: More consistency was found in the CMS bundling rules. For example, CMS consistently considers 69990 included in eye and ear surgical procedures, while <i>CPT</i> varies within these <i>CPT</i> sections.</p>
2	<p>Q: Why does UnitedHealthcare Value & Balance Exchange include add-on codes in the "Services Allowed with 69990 List" when CMS National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) Policy does not include these add-on codes in the range of services in which <i>CPT</i> code 69990 is allowable?</p> <p>A: CMS guidelines state, "In general, NCCI procedure to procedure edits do not include edits with most add-on codes because edits related to the primary procedure(s) are adequate to prevent inappropriate payment for an add-on coded procedure." UnitedHealthcare Value & Balance Exchange aligns with CMS and allows reimbursement of <i>CPT</i> code 69990 reported with add-on codes when the primary procedure codes are allowable. For example, primary procedure code 61304 (Craniectomy or craniotomy, exploratory; supratentorial) is allowable and, therefore, add-on code 61316 (Incision and subcutaneous placement of cranial bone graft (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure) is also allowable.</p>

Codes

64727	69990
--------------	--------------

Attachments

 UnitedHealthcare Value & Balance Exchange Services Allowed with 64727	<p>This list contains the CPT codes for services that are reimbursed when submitted with CPT code 64727.</p>
 UnitedHealthcare Value & Balance Exchange Services Allowed with 69990	<p>This list contains the CPT codes for services that are reimbursed when submitted with CPT code 69990.</p>

Resources

<p>American Medical Association, <i>Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®)</i> and associated publications and services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS Manual System and other CMS publications and services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) publications</p>

History

<p>1/1/2021</p>	<p>Policy implemented by UnitedHealthcare Value & Balance Exchange</p>
-----------------	--