

Provider Preventable Conditions: Health Care Acquired Conditions and Present on Admission Policy, Facility

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

UnitedHealthcare Individual 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.

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Application

This reimbursement policy applies to UnitedHealthcare Individual Exchange products.

This reimbursement policy applies to services reported using the UB04 claim form or its electronic equivalent or its successor form. This policy applies to all products and all network and non-network outpatient facility claims, Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASC), Outpatient Surgical Centers (OSC), including, but not limited to, non-network authorized, and percent of charge contract facilities.

Applicable States:

This reimbursement policy applies to Individual Exchange benefit plans in all states except for Nevada.

Policy

Overview

Consistent with the Affordable Care Act administered through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), UnitedHealthcare Individual Exchange will implement the requirements related to the Provider Preventable Conditions initiative which includes:

- 1) adjustment of reimbursement for Health Care Acquired Conditions (HCAC)
- 2) Present On Admission (POA) indicator requirement
- 3) no reimbursement for Never Events and
- 4) Other Provider Preventable Conditions (OPPC) as defined by any additional State Regulations that are in place that expand or further define the CMS regulations.

Reimbursement Guidelines

Health Care Acquired Conditions

For discharges occurring on or after 7/1/2012, hospital reimbursement will be adjusted cases when one of the selected conditions is acquired during hospitalization (i.e., was not present on admission). The case is paid as though the secondary diagnosis is not present. CMS has identified the following to be Health Care Acquired Conditions (HCAC) because they:

- (a) Are high cost or high volume or both,
 - (b) Result a higher payment when present as a secondary diagnosis
 - Payment may be adjusted based on the assignment of a case to an MS-DRG of a higher value as a result of the secondary diagnosis
 - For non-DRG reimbursement methodologies, payment may be adjusted if the health plan can reasonably isolate for nonpayment the portion of the payment directly related treatment for, and related to, the provider-preventable conditions,
- AND**
- (c) Could reasonably have been prevented through the application of evidence-based guidelines.

UnitedHealthcare Individual Exchange will consider the following to be Health Care Acquired Conditions (HCAC) if not Present on Admission (POA) based on the list of diagnoses provided in the CMS Regulations:

- Foreign Object Retained After Surgery
- Air Embolism
- Blood Incompatibility
- Stage III and IV Pressure Ulcers
- Falls and Trauma causing:
 - Fractures
 - Dislocations
 - Intracranial Injuries
 - Crushing Injuries
 - Burns
 - Electric Shock
- Manifestations of Poor Glycemic Control causing:
 - Diabetic Ketoacidosis
 - Nonketotic Hyperosmolar Coma
 - Hypoglycemic Coma
 - Secondary Diabetes with Ketoacidosis
 - Secondary Diabetes with Hyperosmolarity
- Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection (UTI)
- Vascular Catheter-Associated Infection
- Surgical Site Infection Following:
 - Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG)—Mediastinitis
 - Cardiac Implantable Electronic Device (CIED)
 - Bariatric Surgery
 - Laparoscopic Gastric Bypass
 - Gastroenterostomy
 - Laparoscopic Gastric Restrictive Surgery
 - Orthopedic Procedures
 - Spine
 - Neck
 - Shoulder
 - Elbow

- Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT)/Pulmonary Embolism (PE) Following: **
 - Total Knee Replacement
 - Hip Replacement
- Iatrogenic Pneumothorax with Venous Catheterization

**NOTE: For Medicaid members, obstetric and pediatric patients are excluded from the Deep Vein Thrombosis/Pulmonary Embolism component only.

There will be no reduction in payment if the condition is indicated to be Present on Admission (POA) by utilizing the appropriate POA indicator on the submitted claim.

Other Provider Preventable Conditions

1. Also included in the Medicaid Payment Adjustments for Provider-Preventable Conditions including Health Care Acquired Conditions regulations is the “Never Events” noncoverage component. Consistent with CMS, UnitedHealthcare Individual Exchange will not reimburse for a surgical or other invasive procedure, or for services related to a particular surgical or other invasive procedure when any of the following are erroneously performed:

- A different procedure altogether
- The correct procedure but on the wrong body part
- The correct procedure by on the wrong patient

2. UnitedHealthcare Individual Exchange will align with any state-specific initiatives as they are approved by CMS and implemented by the individual states.

Present On Admission (POA)

The POA indicator is required on all inpatient claims submitted on a UB04 form, its electronic equivalent or its successor form. A POA indicator is required on any diagnosis that is not exempt from the requirement per CMS. All facilities are required to use the appropriate POA indicators unless a particular state has requested and received an exception from CMS to exclude certain types of facilities.

Appropriate POA indicators are:

	DESCRIPTION	PAYMENT
Y	Diagnosis was present at time of inpatient admission.	Payment made for condition
N	Diagnosis was not present at time of inpatient admission.	No payment made for condition
U	Documentation insufficient to determine if condition was present at the time of inpatient admission.	No payment made for condition
W	Clinically undetermined. Provider unable to clinically determine whether the condition was present at the time of inpatient admission.	Payment made for condition
1	Exempt from POA reporting. This code is the equivalent of a blank on the UB-04, however, it was determined that blanks were undesirable NOTE: The number “1” is no longer valid on claims submitted under the version 5010 format, effective January 1, 2011. The POA field will instead be left blank for codes exempt from POA reporting.	Exempt from POA reporting

Additional information can be found on the CMS website:

[CMS ICD-10 HAC List](#)

[CMS ICD-10 POA Exempt List](#)

Questions and Answers

1	<p>Q: Are facilities that are currently exempt from the Medicare HAC initiative also exempt from the Medicaid Health Care Acquired Conditions initiative?</p> <p>A: No, per CMS the final rule has language indicating it is applicable to ALL inpatient hospital settings. Thus, UnitedHealthcare Individual Exchange will apply this policy to all inpatient hospital settings for Medicaid members in order to be compliant with the CMS Mandate.</p>
2	<p>Q: Is this initiative limited to the current diagnoses?</p> <p>A: CMS reserves the right to revise both the HCAC list and the NCD list at any time. UnitedHealthcare Individual Exchange will follow both the CMS mandate and any additional regulations implemented by individual states that have been approved by CMS for this initiative.</p>
3	<p>Q: Is POA indicator required?</p> <p>A: UnitedHealthcare Individual Exchange will identify HCAC claims based on the appropriate use of the POA indicator. Claims that do not have the POA indicator included may be subject to denials and required to re-submit. POA indicator is not required on SNF (Skilled Nursing Facility) claims.</p>

Resources

Individual state Medicaid regulations, manuals & fee schedules

American Medical Association, *Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) Professional Edition* 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, Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System, HCPCS Release and Code Sets

National Uniform Billing Committee (NUBC)

Code of Federal Regulations

History

1/1/2026	Policy Version Change Removed exclusions for New York and Massachusetts
10/1/2025	Policy Version Change History entries prior to 10/1/2023 deleted
4/14/2024	Policy Version Change Updated Application Language
11/1/2023	Annual Anniversary Date and Version Change Policy section: Verbiage updated Resources section updated
1/1/2021	Policy implemented by UnitedHealthcare Value & Balance Exchange