Hospital Outpatient Radiology Services
Rebundling Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Hospital Reimbursement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved By</td>
<td>National Reimbursement Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approval Date</td>
<td>April 25, 2006</td>
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Description

This policy describes the rebundling edits applied by UnitedHealthcare to determine reimbursement for the technical component of hospital outpatient radiology services contracted under the UnitedHealthcare Facility Outpatient Radiology Fee Schedule. Effective October 1, 2011, this policy also applies when any of the following outpatient service categories are contracted using the Per Unit payment method: Other Diagnostic Radiology, Nuclear Medicine, Computerized Tomography, Imaging, Mammography, Ultrasound, Magnetic Resonance Imaging, or Positron Emission Tomography.

Audience

Targeted Population

This policy applies only to participating hospitals contracted under the UnitedHealthcare Facility Outpatient Radiology Fee Schedule. Effective October 1, 2011, this policy also applies when any of the following outpatient service categories are contracted using the Per Unit payment method: Other Diagnostic Radiology, Nuclear Medicine, Computerized Tomography, Imaging, Mammography, Ultrasound, Magnetic Resonance Imaging, or Positron Emission Tomography.

Policy

Overview

According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), radiology procedures/services should be reported with the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) or Health Care Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code(s) that most comprehensively describe the services performed. Unbundling occurs when multiple procedure codes are billed for a group of procedures that are covered by a single comprehensive code.

Edit Sources and Application

UnitedHealthcare sources its hospital outpatient radiology rebundling edits to definitive methodologies created and maintained by third party authorities. No interpretive sources are used. The definitive sources are:


Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) edits as loaded in the Medicare Outpatient Code Editor (OCE).
UHC follows CMS in applying the edits based on the version in effect for the date of service of the radiologic procedures reported. The hospital version of the NCCI edits is updated quarterly by CMS.

The edits administered by this policy may be found on the following link:
Medicare National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) Edits

The Column One/Column Two Correct Coding Edits table and the Mutually Exclusive Edits table have been combined into one table and include code pairs that should not be reported together.

Modifiers and Applicability
As specified by CMS and CPT, United Healthcare will accept the following modifiers for hospital outpatient radiology service reporting:

- 50 Bilateral Procedure
- 52 Reduced Services
- 59 Distinct Procedural Service
- 76 Repeat Procedure by Same Physician
- 77 Repeat Procedure by Another Physician
- XE Separate encounter
- XP Separate practitioner
- XS Separate organ/structure
- XU Unusual non-overlapping service

- Level II anatomical HCPCS modifiers for describing fingers, toes etc.

Information describing usage of modifier 59 and the -X {EPSU} modifiers can be found on the CMS Medicare NCCI, Medicaid NCCI or CMS MLN Matters websites.

Medicare Learning Network (MLN) Specific Modifiers for Distinct Procedural Services

Medicare Learning Network (MLN) Proper Use of Modifier 59

### Definitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modifier</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CMS CCI Definitive Edit</td>
<td>An edit sourced to specific billing guidelines from the General Correct Coding Policies contained in the National Correct Coding Policy Manual published by CMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPT Definitive Edit</td>
<td>An edit sourced to specific CPT coding book direction related to the reporting of exact codes or modifiers</td>
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### References and Resources

**References:**


2. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Hospital Outpatient National Correct Coding Initiative Edits
Questions and Answers

**Q1.** Which version of the Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) edits does United Healthcare apply to hospital outpatient radiology claims?

**A1.** In accordance with CMS, United Healthcare applies the hospital version of the CCI edits that are applicable to the date of service as loaded in the Medicare Outpatient Code Editor (OCE).

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<th>History/Updates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 1, 2006</td>
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<td>October 1, 2011</td>
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