

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 Community Plan reimbursement policies uses 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 Community Plan's reimbursement policy for the services described and is not intended to address every aspect of a reimbursement situation. Accordingly, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan 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 Community Plan enrollees.

Other factors affecting reimbursement supplement, modify or, in some cases, supersede this policy. These factors include, but are not limited to: federal &/or state regulatory requirements, 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 Community Plan due to programming or other constraints; however, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan strives to minimize these variations.

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan 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 Community Plan Medicaid 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 Community Plan 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 Community Plan follows CMS reimbursement guidelines for reimbursement of 69990 with certain nervous system surgeries.

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan 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 Community Plan choose to follow the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) guidelines rather than the CPT 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 CPT varies within these CPT sections.</p>
2	<p>Q: Why does UnitedHealthcare Community Plan 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 CPT 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 Community Plan aligns with CMS and allows reimbursement of CPT 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

CPT code section

64727

69990

Attachments	
UnitedHealthcare Community Plan Services Allowed with 64727	This list contains the CPT codes for services that are reimbursed when submitted with CPT code 64727.
UnitedHealthcare Community Plan Services Allowed with 69990	This list contains the CPT codes for services that are reimbursed when submitted with CPT code 69990.

Resources
Individual state Medicaid regulations, manuals & fee schedules 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

History	
1/1/2021	Policy Version Change Attachments section: Services allowed with 69990 list updated History section: Entries prior to 1/1/2019 archived
4/24/2020	Annual date and version change Codes: Descriptions removed History section: Entries prior to 1/1/2018 archived
10/4/2019	Annual Anniversary Date and Version Change Title section: Removed Annual Approval information & moved policy # to the header History section: Entries prior to 1/1/2017 archived
1/1/2019	Policy Name: Changed to Microsurgery Policy, Professional Annual version change Attachments section: Services allowed with 69990 list updated History section: Entries prior to 1/1/2016 archived
Jan 2006	Policy implemented by UnitedHealthcare Community & State