

Nonphysician Health Care Professionals Billing Evaluation and Management Codes 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 Product.

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

This policy describes reimbursement for Evaluation and Management (E/M) services (CPT codes 99091, 99201–99499) reported by nonphysician health care professionals.

Reimbursement Guidelines

The Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) book has specific guidelines that give the following instruction: "Select the name of the procedure or service that accurately identifies the service performed."

The National Correct Coding Initiative Policy Manual gives the following instruction: "Procedures should be reported with the most comprehensive CPT code that describes the services performed."

CPT guidance instructs that E/M (CPT codes 99091, 99201-99499) should only be reported by Physicians or other qualified health care professionals. In accordance with CMS guidelines, the only qualified health care professionals that may report E/M services are nurse practitioners (NP), clinical nurse specialists (CNS), certified nurse midwives (CNM) and Physician assistants (PA), none of which are considered nonphysician health care professionals for purposes of this policy.

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan will not reimburse E/M services (CPT codes 99091, 99201-99499) when reported by nonphysician health care professionals reporting under their own individual or group tax identification number (TIN). For purposes of this policy, the specialties that are considered nonphysician health care professionals are listed in the attachment section of the policy.

There is a wide variety of CPT and Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes that specifically and accurately identify and describe the services and procedures performed by nonphysician health care professionals.

For more complete information regarding reporting E/M services from physical or occupational therapists refer to the Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation: PT, OT and Evaluation & Management Policy.

Definitions


Physician	A Doctor of Medicine (MD) or Doctor of Osteopathy (DO)
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State Exceptions

California	Per State Regulation, California Medicaid allows Pharmacists to bill E/M CPT codes 99201, 99212 & 90471.
Massachusetts	Per State Regulations, Massachusetts allows reimbursement of CPT code 99429 for Audiologist
Nebraska	Per State Regulations, Nebraska Medicaid allows reimbursement of CPT code 99429 with EP modifier for Lactation specialist.
Washington	Washington Medicaid allows Pharmacists to bill E/M CPT 99211-99215.
Wisconsin	Per State Regulations, Wisconsin allows reimbursement of CPT code 99429 for Audiologist

Questions and Answers

1	<p>Q: Is it appropriate for a Registered Dietitian performing Medical Nutrition Therapy to report this service with CPT code 99401?</p> <p>A: No. CPT code 99401 is an E/M code which Registered Dietitians should not use to report services because they are nonphysician health care professionals. There are more accurate codes that identify and describe Medical Nutrition Therapy to be reported by Registered Dietitians, such as, CPT 97802.</p>
2	<p>Q: Is it appropriate for home health specialties performing a service in a patient's residence to report 99348?</p> <p>A: No. 99348 is an E/M code which home health specialties should not use to report services because they are nonphysician health care professionals. There are more specific CPT and HCPCS codes that accurately identify and describe the services and procedures performed by home health specialties.</p>
3	<p>Q: Is it appropriate for an Audiologist performing an evaluation to report this service with CPT code 99213?</p> <p>A: No. CPT code 99213 is an E/M code, which an Audiologist should not use to report services because they are nonphysician health care professionals. There are more accurate codes that describe evaluation services performed by an Audiologist (e.g. CPT code 92620).</p>

Attachments	
 Nonphysician Health Care Professionals Medicaid List	A list of Nonphysician Health Care Professionals for Medicaid products not allowed to report E&M services.

Resources
<p>Individual state Medicaid regulations, manuals & fee schedules</p> <p>American Medical Association, <i>Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) Professional Edition</i> and associated publications and services</p> <p>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS Manual System and other CMS publications and services</p> <p>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System, HCPCS Release and Code Sets</p>

History	
10/2/2020	Policy Version Change Overview and Reimbursement Guidelines Section: Verbiage change, added CPT 99091
6/2/2020	Policy Version Change Attachment Section Updated: Medicaid Nonphysician Health Care Professionals list expanded
3/22/2020	Policy Version Change State Exceptions Section: Updated exceptions for Massachusetts, Washington and Wisconsin Questions and Answers Section: added Q&A # 3
2/23/2020	Policy Version Change State Exceptions section: Added CA exception History section: Archived entries prior to 2/1/2018
12/31/2019	Policy Version Change Attachment Section Updated: Medicaid Nonphysician Health Care Professionals list expanded
5/18/2019	Title Section Changed. Removed RPOC reference State Exceptions Section: Exceptions added for Nebraska and Washington
1/1/2019	Annual Version Change History Section: Entries prior to 1/1/2017 archived
11/14/2018	Policy Version Change Application Section updated Professional added to the title Policy Approval Date Change
5/15/2010	Policy implemented by UnitedHealthcare Community Plan