

UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage Medical Policy Update Bulletin Quick View: December 2024



A list of recently approved, revised, and/or retired Medical Policies, Coverage Summaries, and/or Policy Guidelines is provided below for your reference. **For a comprehensive summary of the latest updates, refer to the [Medical Policy Update Bulletin: December 2024](#).**

Medical Policy Updates

Policy Title	Status	Effective Date
Durable Medical Equipment (DME), Prosthetics, Orthotics (Non-Foot Orthotics), Nutritional Therapy and Medical Supplies Grid	Revised	Jan. 1, 2025
Ear, Nose, and Throat Procedures	Updated	Dec. 1, 2024
Home Health Services, Home Health Visits, Respite Care, and Hospice Care	Revised	Dec. 1, 2024
Joint Procedures	Revised	Dec. 1, 2024
Omnibus Codes	Revised	Jan. 1, 2025
Radiation and Oncologic Procedures	Revised	Dec. 1, 2024
Skin Substitutes Grafts/Cellular and Tissue-Based Products (Injections and/or Applications)	Revised	Dec. 1, 2024
Spine Procedures	Updated	Dec. 1, 2024
Surgical Procedures	Revised	Dec. 1, 2024
Treatment of Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ)	Revised	Dec. 1, 2024
Vitamin D Testing	Updated	Dec. 1, 2024

Coverage Summary Updates

Policy Title	Status	Effective Date
Glaucoma & Other Ophthalmic Surgical Treatments	Replaced	Dec. 1, 2024
Medications/Drugs (Outpatient/Part B)	Revised	Dec. 1, 2024
Respiratory Services and Equipment	Replaced	Dec. 1, 2024

Policy Guideline Updates

Policy Title	Status	Effective Date
Anterior Segment Aqueous Drainage Device	Retired	Dec. 1, 2024
Erbitux® (Cetuximab)	Replaced	Dec. 1, 2024
Genetic Testing for Hereditary Cancer	Replaced	Dec. 1, 2024
Zoledronic Acid (Zometa® & Reclast®)	Replaced	Dec. 1, 2024

General Information

The inclusion of a health service (e.g., test, drug, device, or procedure) in this bulletin indicates only that UnitedHealthcare has recently adopted a new policy and/or updated, revised, replaced, or retired an existing policy; it does not imply that UnitedHealthcare provides coverage for the health service. Note that most benefit plan documents exclude from benefit coverage health services identified as investigational or unproven/not medically necessary. Physicians and other health care professionals may not seek or collect payment from a member for services not covered by the applicable benefit plan unless first obtaining the member's written consent, acknowledging that the service is not covered by the benefit plan and that they will be billed directly for the service.

Note: The absence of a policy does not automatically indicate or imply coverage. As always, coverage for a health service must be determined in accordance with the member's benefit plan and any applicable CMS, federal, or state regulatory requirements. Additionally, UnitedHealthcare reserves the right to review the clinical evidence supporting the safety and effectiveness of a medical technology prior to rendering a coverage determination.

UnitedHealthcare respects the expertise of the physicians, health care professionals, and their staff who participate in our network. Our goal is to support you and your patients in making the most informed decisions regarding the choice of quality and cost-effective care, and to support practice staff with a simple and predictable administrative experience. The Medical Policy Update Bulletin was developed to share important information regarding changes to our Medicare Advantage Medical Policies, Coverage Summaries, and Policy Guidelines. When information in this bulletin conflicts with applicable state and/or federal law, UnitedHealthcare follows such applicable federal and/or state law.

Policy Update Classifications

New

New coverage guidelines have been adopted for a health service (e.g., test, drug, device, or procedure)

Updated

An existing policy has been reviewed and changes have not been made to the coverage guidelines; however, items such as the definitions or references may have been updated

Revised

An existing policy has been reviewed and revisions have been made to the coverage guidelines

Replaced

An existing policy has been replaced with a new or different policy

Retired

An existing policy has been retired



The complete library of UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage Medical Policies, Coverage Summaries, and Policy Guidelines is available at UHCprovider.com/policies > For Medicare Advantage Plans > [Medical Policies](#).