NONPHYSICIAN HEALTH CARE CODES POLICY

Policy Number: ADMINISTRATIVE 245.10 T0

Effective Date: April 1, 2020

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

The services described in Oxford policies are subject to the terms, conditions and limitations of the member's contract or certificate. Unless otherwise stated, Oxford policies do not apply to Medicare Advantage members. Oxford reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to modify policies as necessary without prior written notice unless otherwise required by Oxford's administrative procedures or applicable state law. The term Oxford includes Oxford Health Plans, LLC and all of its subsidiaries as appropriate for these policies.

Certain policies may not be applicable to Self-Funded members and certain insured products. Refer to the member specific benefit plan document or Certificate of Coverage to determine whether coverage is provided or if there are any exclusions or benefit limitations applicable to any of these policies. If there is a difference between any policy and the member specific benefit plan document or Certificate of Coverage, the member specific benefit plan document or Certificate of Coverage will govern.

UnitedHealthcare may also use tools developed by third parties, such as the MCG™ Care Guidelines, to assist us in administering health benefits. The MCG™ Care Guidelines are intended to be used in connection with the independent professional medical judgment of a qualified health care provider and do not constitute the practice of medicine or medical advice.

APPLICABLE LINES OF BUSINESS/PRODUCTS

This policy applies to Oxford Commercial plan membership.

APPLICATION

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.

OVERVIEW

This policy describes the correct coding methodology and reimbursement for certain nonphysician health care professional services.

REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES

The American Medical Association Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) Professional Edition gives the following instruction for code selection: “Select the name of the procedure or service that accurately identifies the service performed. Do not select a CPT code that merely approximates the service provided.” The American Medical Association (AMA) has developed specific CPT codes intended for use by qualified health care professionals who are...
not Physicians to report their services. In some instances the intended use of a procedure or service is within the description of the code. For example CPT 98960 describes education and training for patient self-management by a qualified, nonphysician health care professional. In other instances the AMA has included parenthetical information in the CPT book as with CPT 96040 which says “These services are provided by trained genetic counselors and may include obtaining a structured family genetic history, pedigree construction, analysis for genetic risk assessment, and counseling of the patient and family.”

Conversely, the AMA instructs Physicians who provide genetic counseling and education, risk factor reduction intervention or medical nutrition therapy to use the appropriate evaluation and management codes to report these services. Existing evaluation and management codes include services such as taking a patient’s health and family history and counseling.

Therefore, in accordance with correct coding guidelines, Oxford will not reimburse nonphysician health care professional service codes (listed in the Applicable Codes section below) when reported by a Physician, because these codes are intended for use by nonphysician health care professionals. Physicians who provide genetic counseling, health and behavior assessment/intervention, medical nutrition therapy or education and training for patient self-management should report these services using evaluation and management codes.

DEFINITIONS

Physician: A Doctor of Medicine (MD) or Doctor of Osteopathy (DO).

APPLICABLE CODES

The following list(s) of procedure and/or diagnosis codes is provided for reference purposes only and may not be all inclusive. Listing of a code in this policy does not imply that the service described by the code is a covered or non-covered health service. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by the member specific benefit plan document and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment. Other Policies may apply.

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*CPT® is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association*

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Q: If a Physician reports codes from the Health and Behavior Assessment/Intervention series using CPT code 96156-96159, 96164, 96165, 96167, 96168, 96170, or 96171, will he or she be reimbursed?

   A: No. CPT 96156-96159, 96164, 96165, 96167, 96168, 96170, and 96171 should only be reported by qualified nonphysician health care professionals. As indicated in the parenthetical note following the Health and Behavior Assessment/Intervention guidelines in the CPT book, Physicians performing health and behavior assessments/interventions should report the appropriate Evaluation and Management or Preventive Medicine service codes.

2. Q: What would be the appropriate CPT or HCPCS code for a registered dietitian to report for medical nutrition therapy services?

   A: Registered dietitians should report specific CPT or HCPCS codes that accurately identify the service performed using CPT codes 97802-97804 and HCPCS codes G0270-G0271.

REFERENCES

The foregoing Oxford policy has been adapted from an existing UnitedHealthcare national policy that was researched, developed and approved by UnitedHealthcare Reimbursement Policy Oversight Committee. [2020R5006B]


Nonphysician Health Care Codes Policy
UnitedHealthcare Oxford Reimbursement Policy
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Effective 04/01/2020
## POLICY HISTORY/REVISION INFORMATION

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