

PHYSICIAN EXTENDERS

Policy Number: ADMINISTRATIVE 150.14 T0

Effective Date: December 1, 2018

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Related Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to Procedures and Responsibilities section of the policy

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.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to define Physician Extender eligibility for reimbursement of surgical and non-surgical services.

DEFINITIONS

Physician Extender: A specially trained and certified to provide basic medical services under the supervision of a licensed physician. Physician Extenders may order tests and make referrals related to the member's medical needs. Physician Extenders function as an agent of the physician.

Physician Extenders include:

- **Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM):** A registered nurse who has successfully completed a program of study and clinical experience in nurse-midwifery. The scope of practice includes prenatal, postpartum and routine gynecology. Certified Nurse Midwives work along with OBGYNs and may act as an Assistant Surgeon if certified under applicable state law.
- **Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA):** CRNAs care for patients, before, during and after surgical or obstetrical procedures. CRNAs monitor every important function of the patient and individually modify the anesthetic to ensure maximum safety and comfort.

- **Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS):** CNSs are registered licensed nurses who are experts in a defined area of knowledge and practice within a selected clinical area of nursing. CNSs may act as an Assistant Surgeon if certified under applicable state law.
- **Nurse Practitioner (NP):** NPs can obtain medical histories and perform physical exams, diagnose and treat acute health problems, chronic diseases, and order, perform or interpret diagnostic studies within the scope of their practice and license. Nurse Practitioners work in the same practice as a physician (Primary Care Provider [PCP] or specialist) and may act as an Assistant Surgeon if certified under applicable state law.
- **Physician Assistant (PA):** PAs can perform physical examinations, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret lab results, suture wounds and assist in surgery within the scope of their practice and license. PAs work in the same practice as a physician (PCP or specialist) and may act as an Assistant Surgeon if certified under applicable state law.
- **Registered Nurse First Assistant (RNFA):** RNFAs are professional caregivers who assume the responsibility for providing technical assistance under the direct supervision and direction of the operating surgeon. RNFAs may act as an Assistant Surgeon if certified under applicable state law.

POLICY

Members may obtain covered services rendered by a Physician Extender. Those covered services must fall within the scope of the Physician Extender's practices and license. Physician Extenders who are employed by or work under supervision of an Oxford participating provider must also participate with Oxford and will be reimbursed on an in-network basis.

PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Oxford does not require a Primary Care Provider (PCP) referral for services rendered by a Physician Extender who is employed by or works under supervision of the member's PCP and/or OBGYN.

Precertification is required for:

- Physician Extenders used as Assistant Surgeons. Refer to the *Assistant Surgeon* policy.
- Midwives performing home births.

Oxford makes payment for Physician Assistant, Nurse Practitioner, Certified Nurse Midwife, Registered Nurse First Assistant, and Clinical Nurse Specialist services directly to the provider (Physician Extender).

Oxford makes payment to the Anesthesiologist for services rendered by their Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist or Anesthesia Assistant.

Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM)

Certified Nurse Midwives are subject to the same processing guidelines for non-surgical services as OB/GYNs.

The **SB** modifier:

- Is used to designate the Certified Nurse Midwife.
- Allows payment to be made at *100% of the allowable amount for services rendered by a Certified Nurse Midwife.
Exception: Drugs (including vaccines, flu shots, antibiotics, etc) and devices are reimbursed at *100% of the allowable amount.

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) and/or Anesthesia Assistant (AA)

Anesthesiologists must bill for their Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist and/or Anesthesia Assistant.

The **QX** or **QY** modifiers:

- Are used to designate the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist or Anesthesia Assistant.
- Allow payment to be made at *50% of the allowable amount for services provided by a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist or Anesthesia Assistant.

Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)

Other names for Clinical Nurse Specialists:

- Nurse Practitioner (NP)
- Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN)

Non-Surgical Services

The modifier **NP**:

- Is used to designate the Clinical Nurse Specialist for non-surgical services.
- Allows payment for non-surgical Clinical Nurse Specialist services to be made at:
 - **For Connecticut (CT):** *65% of the allowable amount

- **For New York (NY) and New Jersey (NJ):** *85% of the allowable amount
Exception: Drugs (including vaccines, flu shots, antibiotics, etc.) and devices are reimbursed at *100% of the allowable amount.

Surgical Services

The modifier **AS**:

- Is used to designate the Clinical Nurse Specialist as an assistant surgeon.
Exception: For Clinical Nurse Specialists associated with Columbia Advanced Practice Nurse Association (CAPNA), the modifier **AL** is used in place of the **AS** modifier.
- Allows payment for surgical Clinical Nurse Specialist services to be made at *14% of the allowable amount.
- All rules for Assistant Surgeons apply to Clinical Nurse Specialists. Refer to the *Assistant Surgeon* policy.

Nurse Practitioner (NP)

Other names for Nurse Practitioners:

- Nurse Practitioner(NP)
- Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN)
- Behavioral Health Clinical Nurse Specialist (BHCNS)

Note: In CT, members may designate a participating Nurse Practitioner as their PCP.

Non-Surgical Services

The modifier **NP**:

- Is used to designate the Nurse Practitioner for non-surgical services.
- Allows payment for non-surgical Nurse Practitioner services to be made at:
 - **For CT:** *65% of the allowable amount
 - **For NY and NJ:** *85% of the allowable amount
Exception: Drugs (including vaccines, flu shots, antibiotics, etc.) and devices are reimbursed at *100% of the allowable amount.

Surgical Services

The modifier **AS**:

- Is used to designate the Nurse Practitioner as an Assistant Surgeon.
- Allows payment for surgical Nurse Practitioner services to be made at *14% of the allowable amount.
- All rules for Assistant Surgeons apply to Nurse Practitioners. Refer to the *Assistant Surgeon* policy.

Physician Assistant (PA)

Other names for Physician Assistants:

- Specialist Assistant (New York only)
- Surgical Assistant
- Certified Surgical Assistant

Non-Surgical Services

The modifier **PA**:

- Is used to designate the Physician Assistant for non-surgical services.
- Allows payment for non-surgical Physician Assistant services to be made at *65% of the allowable amount.
Exception: Drugs (including vaccines, flu shots, antibiotics, etc.) and devices are reimbursed at *100% of the allowable amount.

Surgical Services

The modifier **AS**:

- Is used to designate the Physician Assistant as an assistant surgeon.
- Allows payment for surgical Physician Assistant services to be made at *14% of the allowable amount.
- All rules for Assistant Surgeons apply to Physician Assistants. Refer to the *Assistant Surgeon* policy.

Registered Nurse First Assistants (RNFA)

Surgical Services

The modifier **AS**:

- Is used to designate the Registered Nurse First Assistant as an Assistant Surgeon.
- Allows payment to be for surgical Registered Nurse First Assistant services to be made at *14% of the allowable amount.
- All rules for Assistant Surgeons apply to Registered Nurse First Assistants. Refer to the *Assistant Surgeon* policy.

REFERENCES

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POLICY HISTORY/REVISION INFORMATION

Date	Action/Description
12/01/2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reformatted references to related Reimbursement Policies • Revised procedures and responsibilities; removed exception language for New Jersey Small Group plans indicating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For plan years prior to Jan. 1, 2017: Out-of-network providers will be reimbursed based on the 80th percentile of Prevailing Healthcare Charges System (PHCS) ○ For plans new and/or renewing on or after Jan. 1, 2017: Out-of-network providers will be reimbursed based upon Maximum Non-Network Reimbursement Process (MNRP) • Archived previous policy version ADMINISTRATIVE 150.13 T0