

PREVENTIVE MEDICINE AND SCREENING POLICY (CES)

Policy Number: ADMINISTRATIVE 238.23C T0

Effective Date: November 9, 2020

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Related Policies

- [Add-On Policy](#)
- [Preventive Care Services](#)
- [Prolonged Services](#)

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

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 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

Preventive Medicine Services [Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) codes 99381-99387, 99391-99397, Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code G0402] are comprehensive in nature, reflect an age and gender appropriate history and examination, and include counseling, anticipatory guidance, and risk factor reduction interventions, usually separate from disease-related diagnoses. Occasionally, an abnormality is encountered or a pre-existing problem is addressed during the Preventive visit, and significant elements of related Evaluation and Management (E/M) services are provided during the same visit. When this occurs, Oxford will reimburse the Preventive Medicine service plus 50% of the Problem-Oriented E/M service code when that code is appended with modifier 25. If the Problem-Oriented service is minor, or if the code is not submitted with modifier 25 appended, it will not be reimbursed.

When a Preventive Medicine service and Other E/M services are provided during the same visit, only the Preventive Medicine service will be reimbursed.

Screening services include:

- Cervical cancer screening
- Pelvic and breast examination
- Prostate cancer screening/digital rectal examination
- Obtaining, preparing and conveyance of a Papanicolaou smear to the laboratory

These Screening procedures are included in (and are not separately reimbursed from) the Preventive Medicine service rendered on the same day.

The following services are included in (and not separately reimbursed from) Preventive Medicine codes/services:

- Prolonged services
- Counseling services
- Medical nutrition therapy services
- Visual function screening and visual acuity screening

For a list of specific codes that are included in (and not separately reimbursed from) Preventive Medicine Services see the [Applicable Codes](#) section below.

For the purposes of this policy, Same Specialty Physician or Other Health Care Professional is defined as a physician and/or other health care professional of the same group and Same Specialty Physician or Other Health Care Professional reporting the same Federal Tax Identification number.

REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES

Preventive Medicine Service and Problem Oriented E/M Service

A Preventive Medicine CPT or HCPCS code and a Problem-Oriented E/M CPT code may both be submitted for the same patient by the Same Specialty Physician or Other Health Care Professional on the same date of service. If the E/M code represents a significant, separately identifiable service and is submitted with [modifier 25](#) appended, Oxford will reimburse the Preventive Medicine code plus 50% of the Problem-Oriented E/M code. Oxford will not reimburse a Problem-Oriented E/M code that does not represent a significant, separately identifiable service and that is not submitted with modifier 25 appended.

Preventive Medicine Service and Other E/M Service

A Preventive Medicine CPT or HCPCS code and Other E/M CPT or HCPCS codes may both be submitted for the same patient by the Same Specialty Physician or Other Health Care Professional on the same date of service. However, Oxford will only reimburse the Preventive Medicine CPT or HCPCS code.

Screening Services

The comprehensive nature of a Preventive Medicine code reflects an age and gender appropriate examination. When a screening code is billed with a Preventive Medicine code on the same date of service by the Same Specialty Physician or Other Health Care Professional, only the Preventive Medicine code is reimbursed.

Prolonged Services

Prolonged services codes represent add-on services that are reimbursed when reported in addition to an appropriate primary service. Preventive Medicine Services are not designated as appropriate primary codes for the Prolonged services codes. When Prolonged service add-on codes are billed with a Preventive Medicine code on the same date of service by the Same Specialty Physician or Other Health Care Professional, only the Preventive Medicine code is reimbursed.

According to CPT and HCPCS, prolonged preventive service codes G0513-G0514 are considered add-on codes and should not be reported without the appropriate primary code. Refer to the Reimbursement Policy titled [Add-On Policy](#) for details.

Counseling Services

Preventive Medicine Services include counseling. When counseling service codes are billed with a Preventive Medicine code on the same date of service by the Same Specialty Physician or Other Health Care Professional, only the Preventive Medicine code is reimbursed.

Medical Nutrition Therapy Services

According to CPT, for Medical Nutrition Therapy assessment and/or intervention performed by a physician, report Evaluation and Management or Preventive Medicine service codes. When Medical Nutrition Therapy codes are billed

with a Preventive Medicine code on the same date of service by the Same Specialty Physician or Other Health Care Professional, only the Preventive Medicine code is reimbursed.

Visual Function and Visual Acuity Screening

The comprehensive nature of a Preventive Medicine code reflects an age and gender appropriate examination. When Visual Function Screening or Visual Acuity Screening is billed with a Preventive Medicine code on the same date of service by the Same Specialty Physician or Other Health Care Professional, only the Preventive Medicine code is reimbursed.

DEFINITIONS

Preventive Medicine Services: Includes annual physical and well-child examinations, usually in the absence of a disease-related diagnosis.

Same Specialty Physician or Other Health Care Professional: Physicians and/or other health care professionals of the same group and same specialty reporting the same Federal Tax Identification number.

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.

Modifiers										
25										

Preventive Medicine Services										
99381	99382	99383	99384	99385	99386	99387	99391	99392	99393	99394
99395	99396	99397	G0402							

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CPT/HCPCS Codes Included in Preventive Medicine Services										
Problem Oriented E/M Services										
99201, 99202, 99203, 99204, 99205, 99212, 99213, 99214, 99215, G0463										
Other E/M Services										
99211, 99241, 99242, 99243, 99244, 99245, 99251, 99252, 99253, 99254, 99255, 99281, 99282, 99283, 99284, 99285, G0245, G0246, S0285										
Prolonged Services										
99354, 99355, 99415, 99416										
Counseling Services										
0403T, 99401, 99402, 99403, 99404, 99406, 99407, 99408, 99409, 99411, 99412, G0296, G0396, G0397, G0443, G0445, G0446, G0447, G0473, G2011, H0005, S0257, S0265, S9470, T1006, T1027										
Medical Nutrition Therapy Services										
97802, 97803, 97804, G0270, G0271										
Screening Services Codes										
G0101, G0102, Q0091										
Visual Function and Visual Acuity Screening										
0333T, 99172										

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1	Q:	Why does Oxford reduce reimbursement to 50% for an evaluation and management (E/M) service (99201-99205 or 99212-99215 with modifier 25) billed for the same person on the same date of service as a Preventive Medicine service?
	A:	Oxford recognizes that a visit may begin as a Preventive Medicine service, and in the process of the examination it may be determined that a disease related condition exists (evaluation and management). When this occurs, the level of decision-making during such a visit may be more complex than the decision-making during a Preventive Medicine visit. However, there are elements of the Preventive Medicine service (e.g., making the appointment, obtaining vital signs, maintaining and stocking the exam room, etc.) that are duplicated in the reimbursement for an E/M code; these duplicated practice expense services are 50% of the E/M cost.
2	Q:	In what situation is CPT code 96110 reimbursable?
	A:	As defined, CPT code 96110 represents developmental screening with interpretation and report. In the introduction to the section in which this code appears, the CPT book states that "it is expected that the administration of these tests will generate material that will be formulated into a report." Because a physician obtains developmental information as an intrinsic part of a preventive medicine service for an infant or child and because this information is sometimes obtained in the form of a questionnaire completed by the parents, it is expected that this code will be reported in addition to the preventive medicine visit only if the screening meets the code description. Physicians should report the specific CPT code for developmental screening or other similar screening or testing, separate and distinct from the Preventive medicine service only when the testing or screening results in an interpretation and report by the physician being entered into the medical record.
3	Q:	Why is Q0091 not separately reimbursable when billed with a Preventive Medicine code?
	A:	Oxford considers Q0091 to be an integral part of a Preventive Health Care service. Therefore, this component of a Preventive visit is not separately reimbursable.
4	Q:	Why is 99172 not separately reimbursable when billed with a Preventive Medicine code?
	A:	The CPT Book clearly states that this service should not be reported in addition to an E/M code.
5	Q:	How does Oxford reimburse for screening tests based on a questionnaire completed by the patient or a family member when done in conjunction with a Preventive Medicine service?
	A:	Counseling, anticipatory guidance and risk factor reduction interventions are integral to a Preventive Medicine visit. Historical information may be obtained either through direct questioning or through completion of a written questionnaire. The responses on a questionnaire often identify areas for more focused interventions or treatments. Since this screening is part of a Preventive Medicine service, it is not reimbursed separately. Occasionally, a screening instrument requires interpretation, scoring, and the development of a report separate from the Preventive Medicine encounter. In those situations, where a CPT code exists for that service, screening, interpretation and development of a report is reimbursed separately from a Preventive Medicine service.

REFERENCES

The foregoing Oxford policy has been adapted from an existing UnitedHealthcare national policy that was researched, developed and approved by UnitedHealthcare Payment Policy Oversight Committee. [2020R0013A]

American Medical Association, Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) 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, Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System, HCPCS Release and Code Sets.

POLICY HISTORY/REVISION INFORMATION

Date	Action/Description
11/09/2020	<p>Applicable Codes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated list of HCPCS codes for Counseling Services included in Preventive Medicine Services to reflect quarterly edits; added G2011 <p>Supporting Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archived previous policy version ADMINISTRATIVE 238.22C TO