

# REPLACEMENT CODES POLICY

**Policy Number:** ADMINISTRATIVE 255.7 T0

**Effective Date:** January 22, 2018

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|-------------------------|
| None                    |

## 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 policy applies to all products, 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

All codes published on the National Physician Fee Schedule (NPFS) by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) are assigned a status code. This policy addresses specific codes assigned status code "I" where CMS has indicated a replacement code is available and has assigned a Relative Value Unit (RVU) to the replacement code.

## REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES

Per the public use file that accompanies the NPFS Relative Value File, the following is stated for status code "I": Not valid for Medicare purposes. Medicare uses another code for reporting of, and payment for, these services.

In certain instances CMS creates Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) replacement codes for physicians and/or healthcare professionals to report in lieu of the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) or HCPCS

codes assigned an "I" status. The replacement codes allow for additional code specificity so that the appropriate reimbursement and beneficiary coverage can be applied for the service provided.

In the example below CMS has replaced intraoperative neurophysiology CPT code 95941 with HCPCS code G0453 which is specific to a single beneficiary.

**Note:** RVU values may not accurately reflect the current NPFS and are intended for illustrative purposes only.

| NPFS Status                         | Code  | Description  | RVU  |
|-------------------------------------|-------|--|------|
| I = Not valid for Medicare purposes | 95941 | Continuous intraoperative neurophysiology monitoring, from outside the operating room (remote or nearby) or for monitoring of <b>more than one case</b> while in the operating room, <b>per hour</b> (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure) | 0.00 |
| A = Active Code                     | G0453 | Continuous intraoperative neurophysiology monitoring, from outside the operating room (remote or nearby), <b>per patient</b> , (attention directed exclusively to one patient) <b>each 15 minutes</b> (list in addition to primary procedure)                    | 0.93 |

Consistent with CMS, Oxford will not separately reimburse for specific CPT or HCPCS codes assigned a status code "I" on the NPFS Relative Value File, indicating another code (replacement code) is used to report the procedure or service and that replacement code has an assigned RVU. Codes from the NPFS with a status of "I" addressed in other Oxford reimbursement policies, codes with no identified replacement code and those where the replacement code does not have an RVU are not included in this policy. The physician or healthcare professional is required to report the replacement code that best describes the service provided.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

|   |    |  |
|---|----|--|
| 1 | Q: | If the provider reports CPT code 44705 (Preparation of fecal microbiota for instillation, including assessment of donor specimen) which has an NPFS status code of "I", will it be reimbursed?   |
|   | A: | No. Consistent with CMS, Oxford will deny reimbursement of specified status "I" codes on the NPFS that have been assigned a replacement code by CMS. In this instance, a single code, replacement code HCPCS G0455 (Preparation with instillation of fecal microbiota by any method, including assessment of donor specimen) which includes both the work of preparation and instillation of the microbiota, should be reported. |

## ATTACHMENTS

### Replacement Codes

Contains a listing of codes assigned a status code "I" and included in Oxford's *Replacement Codes Policy*.



Replacement Codes  
List

## 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. [2017R0128D]

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS Manual System and other CMS publications and services.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) Relative Value Files.

## POLICY HISTORY/REVISION INFORMATION

| Date       | Action/Description   |
|------------|--|
| 01/22/2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated list of <i>Replacement Codes</i> (attachment file listing procedure codes assigned a status code "I" and included in Oxford's <i>Replacement Codes Policy</i>) to reflect annual code edits; added "I" status CPT code 97127 with corresponding replacement HCPCS code G0515</li> <li>Archived previous policy version ADMINISTRATIVE 255.6 T0</li> </ul> |