

Advanced Practice Health Care Provider Policy, Professional

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT THIS REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

You are responsible for submission of accurate claims. This reimbursement policy is intended to ensure that you are reimbursed based on the code or codes that correctly describe the health care services provided. UnitedHealthcare reimbursement policies may use Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) or other coding guidelines. References to CPT or other sources are for definitional purposes only and do not imply any right to reimbursement.

This reimbursement policy applies to all health care services billed on CMS 1500 forms and, when specified, to those billed on UB04 forms. Coding methodology, industry-standard reimbursement logic, regulatory requirements, benefits design and other factors are considered in developing reimbursement policy.

This information is intended to serve only as a general reference resource regarding UnitedHealthcare’s reimbursement policy for the services described and is not intended to address every aspect of a reimbursement situation. Accordingly, UnitedHealthcare may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying this policy to health care services provided in a particular case. Further, the policy does not address all issues related to reimbursement for health care services provided to UnitedHealthcare enrollees. Other factors affecting reimbursement may supplement, modify or, in some cases, supersede this policy. These factors may include, but are not limited to: legislative mandates, the physician or other provider contracts, the enrollee’s benefit coverage documents and/or other reimbursement, medical or drug policies. Finally, this policy may not be implemented exactly the same way on the different electronic claims processing systems used by UnitedHealthcare due to programming or other constraints; however, UnitedHealthcare strives to minimize these variations. UnitedHealthcare may modify this reimbursement policy at any time by publishing a new version of the policy on this Website. However, the information presented in this policy is accurate and current as of the date of publication.

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Application

This reimbursement policy applies to services reported using the 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form (a/k/a CMS-1500), its’ electronic equivalent or its’ successor form. 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.

Policy

Overview

This policy sets forth the requirements for reimbursement of services rendered by an Advanced Practice Health Care Provider, within a medical or other healthcare practice.

Reimbursement Guidelines for Advance Practice Health Care Providers.

Services rendered by an Advanced Practice Health Care Provider should be reported using the Advanced Practice Health Care Provider’s NPI number when the Advanced Practice Health Care Provider has an NPI number and is eligible to bill directly for services rendered pursuant to applicable laws and regulations, subject to the Services Incident-to a Supervising Health Care Provider Reimbursement Policy.

UnitedHealthcare will consider reimbursement for medical services rendered by Advanced Practice Health Care Providers, under the following circumstances:

- The service is a covered service under the member’s benefit plan,

- The service is performed by an Advanced Practice Health Care Provider within the scope of their licensure or certification, and;
- The service is traditionally considered a physician's service.

Unless otherwise contracted with a non-physician fee schedule, UnitedHealthcare will reimburse 85% of the applicable physician fee schedule for covered services rendered by an Advanced Practice Health Care Provider.

Definitions

Advanced Practice Health Care Provider	A healthcare practitioner, other than a physician, licensed by the state in which they practice to assist or act in the place of a physician, who may bill directly under applicable state law. For the purposes of this policy, an Advanced Practice Health Care Provider includes, without limitation, Physician Assistants (PA), Nurse Practitioners (NP) and Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS).
Nonphysician Provider	Auxiliary personnel, such as nurses and medical assistants, acting under the supervision of a physician or Advanced Practice Health Care Provider, regardless of whether the individual is an employee, leased employee, or independent contractor of the physician, or of the legal entity that employs or contracts with the physician. Nonphysician Providers may include Advanced Practice Health Care Providers, when applicable.
Supervising Health Care Provider Professional	A physician or Advanced Practice Health Care Provider, who has their own NPI number, when responsible for supervising services rendered by an Advanced Practice Health Care or Nonphysician Provider.

Resources

American Medical Association, Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) and associated publications and services
 Health care Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS)
 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS Manual System and other CMS publications and services

History

8/1/2021	<p>Verbiage Change (No New Version)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Removal of incident to verbiage into its' own Reimbursement Policy (Services Incident-to a Supervising Health Care Provider Policy). ▪ New Definition: Supervising Health Care Provider
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3/1/2021	<p>Policy Version Change New Section Added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting of Services by Advanced Practice Health Care Providers Title and Section Verbiage Changes: • Reimbursement Guidelines for Advance Practice Health Care Providers with an NPI Number • Reporting “Incident-to” Services for Advanced Practice Health Care Providers with an NPI Number and other Nonphysician Providers. • Determining if a Service is “Incident-to” for Split/Shared E/M Services – Advanced Practice Health Care Providers with an NPI Number. Section Verbiage Changes: • Overview <p>Section Removed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedures with Modifier SA Sections Definitions: • Added: Advanced Practice Health Care Provider and Nonphysician Provider • Removed: Collaboration and Modifier SA Questions and Answers Section: • #1 Answer verbiage change • #2 Answer verbiage change. <p>History Section: Entries prior to 1/1/2019 archived</p>
4/13/2020	<p>Added the word “Commercial” to the policy header. (No New Version)</p>
9/16/2019	<p>Policy Version Change Verbiage Change: Overview and Reimbursement Guidelines Sections Questions and Answers and Definitions Sections updated</p>
6/24/2019	<p>Policy Version Change Policy Title Change Policy Verbiage Change: Overview Section, Reimbursement Guidelines Section, Incident to” Services Section, Split/ Shared E/M Services Section, Procedures with SA Modifier Section, Questions and Answers Section updated Attachments Section: Removed</p>
1/1/2019	<p>Policy Version Change Application Section: Removed pathway to policies for other lines of business Attachments Section: Updated</p>
9/1/2017	<p>Policy implemented by UnitedHealthcare Employer & Individual</p>
5/10/2017	<p>Policy approved by the Reimbursement Policy Oversight Committee</p>