

Payment Policy: Unlisted Procedure Codes

Reference Number: CC.PP.009

Product Types: ALL

Effective Date: 01/01/2013

Last Review Date: 11/30/2021

[Coding Implications](#)
[Revision Log](#)

See [Important Reminder](#) at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Policy Overview

Some services or procedures performed by providers may not have specific Current Procedure Codes (CPT) or HCPCS codes. When submitting claims for these services or procedures that are not otherwise specified, unlisted codes are designated. Unlisted codes provide the means of reporting and tracking services and procedures until a more specific code is established.

Application

This policy applies to claims containing procedure codes that are unlisted. Unlisted procedure codes should not be used when a more descriptive procedure code representing the service provided is available.

Policy Description

According to the Instructions for Use of the CPT Code book in the Current Procedural Terminology, 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 performed. If no such specific code exists, then report the service using the appropriate unlisted procedure or service code. When necessary, any modifying or extenuating circumstances are added. Any service or procedure should be adequately documented in the medical record.

Reimbursement

- Claims submitted with unlisted procedure codes and without supporting documentation are denied.
- Claims submitted with unlisted procedure codes are denied if after review, it is determined that a more appropriate procedure code is available.
- Additional reimbursement may not be provided for special techniques/equipment submitted with an unlisted procedure code.
- Unlisted procedure codes with a modifier appended are reviewed and may be denied
- When performing two or more procedures that require the use of the same unlisted CPT code, the unlisted code should only be reported once to identify the services provided (excludes unlisted HCPCS codes; for example, DME/unlisted drugs).
- If the services bundle, the provider is sent a letter indicating such and the additional payment is denied.
- If the procedure is experimental, an authorization is required.

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Documentation Requirements

Certain supporting documentation is required when filing a claim that includes unlisted procedure codes, because those codes do not describe or identify a specific procedure or service. That supporting documentation should contain the following pertinent information:

- A clear description of the nature, extent, and need for the procedure or service
- A detailed report that clarifies whether the procedure was performed independently from other services, or if it was performed at the same surgical site or through the same surgical opening as another procedure
- A description of an extenuating circumstances which may have complicated the service or procedure
- An account of the time, effort and equipment necessary to perform the procedure or provide the service
- A description of the number of times the procedure was performed or the services were provided

When submitting supporting documentation, designate the portion of the report that identifies the test or procedure associated with the unlisted procedure codes. Required information must be legible and clearly marked. Refer to the table below for the guidelines on documentation requirements.

| Procedure Code Category | Documentation Requirements |
|--|--|
| Surgical Procedures: All unlisted codes within the range of 10021-69990 and/or by report | Operative or Procedure Report |
| Radiology/Imaging Procedures: All unlisted codes within the range of 70010-79999 and/or by report | Imaging Report |
| Laboratory and Pathology Procedures: All unlisted codes within the range of 80047 -89398 and/or by report | Laboratory or Pathology Report |
| Medical Procedures: All unlisted codes within the range of 90281-99607 and/or by report | Office Notes and Reports |
| Unlisted HCPCS Codes | Operative or Procedure Report |
| Unclassified Drug Codes | Provide the NDC number with full description/name and strength of the drug and service units |
| Unlisted DME HCPCS Codes | Provide narrative on the claim; also, if applicable, provide invoice or UPN information. |

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References

1. *Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®)*, 2021
2. *HCPCS Level II*, 2021
3. *International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM)*, 2021
4. *ICD-10-CM Official Draft Code Set*, 2021
5. *CMS Pub. 100-04, Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 4/180.3, Unlisted Service or Procedure*. Available at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/clm104c04.pdf>

| Revision History | |
|------------------|---|
| | Original Effective Date |
| 08/15/2016 | Corrected typos and removed “Unlisted Procedure codes appended with modifier will be denied” from Reimbursement Section |
| 02/02/2016 | Converted to corporate template and conducted annual review |
| 02/24/2018 | Updated policy, conducted review, updated references |
| 03/30/2019 | Verified Codes, Conducted Review, Updated Policy |
| 11/01/2019 | Annual Review completed |
| 11/01/2020 | Annual Review completed |
| 11/30/2021 | Annual Review completed; no major updates required |

Important Reminder

For the purposes of this payment policy, “Health Plan” means a health plan that has adopted this payment policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any other of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this payment policy is to provide a guide to payment, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage and payment determinations and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage and payment determinations and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This payment policy is effective as of the date determined by Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this payment policy. This payment policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this payment policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this payment policy, and additional payment policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

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This payment policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This payment policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of Health Plan.

This payment policy is the property of Centene Corporation. Unauthorized copying, use, and distribution of this payment policy or any information contained herein are strictly prohibited. Providers, members and their representatives are bound to the terms and conditions expressed herein through the terms of their contracts. Where no such contract exists, providers, members and their representatives agree to be bound by such terms and conditions by providing services to members and/or submitting claims for payment for such services.

Note: For Medicaid members, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this payment policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this payment policy.

Note: For Medicare members, to ensure consistency with the Medicare National Coverage Determinations (NCD) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCD), all applicable NCDs and LCDs should be reviewed prior to applying the criteria set forth in this payment policy. Refer to the CMS website at <http://www.cms.gov> for additional information.

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