

Home Health Services 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. 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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Table of Contents	
Application	1
Policy	2
Overview	2
Reimbursement Guidelines	2
Definitions	2
Questions and Answers	3
Resources	3
History	3

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 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.

UnitedHealthcare Commercial
 This Reimbursement Policy applies to all UnitedHealthcare Commercial benefit plans.

UnitedHealthcare Individual Exchange
 This Reimbursement Policy applies to all Individual Exchange benefit plans.

Policy

Overview

This policy addresses reimbursement for home health services, performed in the home, (Place of Service (POS) 12).

Home health services may include part-time or intermittent skilled nursing services, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology services, part-time or intermittent home health aide services, medical social services, Durable Medical Equipment (DME), and/or medical supplies.

Reimbursement Guidelines

Home Services During Inpatient Stay

In alignment with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), if both home health services (POS 12) and inpatient care are billed for the same dates of service, UnitedHealthcare will reimburse the inpatient care only. During this period, the home health services will not be eligible for reimbursement.

The dates of admission and discharge for inpatient care are exceptions. If home health services are provided on these dates, those days may still be eligible for reimbursement.

Home health services are to be submitted with POS 12, which indicates the patient received these services in a private residence and not a hospital or other facility.

Home Health HCPCS

UnitedHealthcare will not consider for reimbursement physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and nursing home health HCPCS codes with CMS status indicator E, I, or X when submitted by physicians or physician groups.

These home health HCPCS codes will continue to be considered for reimbursement when appropriately submitted by home health providers.

Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Nursing Home Health Codes with Status Indicator E, I or X

G0151	G0152	G0153	G0155	G0156	G0157	G0158	G0159	G0160
G0161	G0162	S9122	S9123	S9124	S9127	S9128	S9129	S9131
S9152								

Definitions

Durable Medical Equipment (DME)	Medical equipment which: *Can withstand repeated use *Is not disposable *Is used to serve a medical purpose *Is generally not useful to a person in the absence of sickness or injury *Is appropriate for use in the home
Place of Service	A two-digit code used on health care professional claims to indicate the setting in which a service was provided.

Questions and Answers	
1	<p>Q: Do health care professionals need to be contracted with UnitedHealthcare to be considered for reimbursement under this policy?</p> <p>A: For benefit plans that include out-of-network coverage, this policy applies to claims submitted by both participating and non-participating care providers.</p>
2	<p>Q: Does Durable Medical Equipment (DME) with POS 12 apply to this policy?</p> <p>A: Yes, this policy is applicable to billing that falls within the dates of an inpatient claim (not including the dates of admission and discharge).</p>
3	<p>Q: What happens if the patient is discharged and receives home health services on the same day as the discharge with POS 12?</p> <p>A: Home health services provided on the dates of admission and discharge are still eligible for reimbursement.</p>
4	<p>Q: What happens if the patient is in a facility and a home health assessment is needed?</p> <p>A: The policy will not deny services for a home health assessment for admit and discharge dates of an inpatient stay.</p>

Resources
American Medical Association, <i>Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®)</i> and associated publications
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS Manual System and other CMS publications and services
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, National Physician Fee Schedule (NPFS) Relative Value Files

History	
11/27/2024	Policy Version Change HCPCS code list corrected
8/13/2024	Policy Version Change Overview section revised Reimbursement Guidelines section revised Resources section revised
7/1/2024	Policy implemented by UnitedHealthcare Commercial and Individual Exchange
3/12/2024	Policy approved by Reimbursement Policy Oversight Committee