

Nonphysician Health Care Professionals Billing Evaluation and Management Codes 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
<p>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 and 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.</p> <p>United Healthcare Commercial This Reimbursement Policy applies to all UnitedHealthcare Commercial benefit plans.</p> <p>UnitedHealthcare Individual Exchange This Reimbursement Policy applies to all Individual Exchange benefit plans.</p>

Policy
<p>Overview</p> <p>This policy describes reimbursement for Evaluation and Management (E/M) services (CPT codes 98000-98016, 99091, 99202-99499) reported by nonphysician health care professionals.</p>
<p>Reimbursement Guidelines</p> <p>The <i>Current Procedural Terminology</i> (CPT®) book has specific guidelines that give the following instruction: "Select the name of the procedure or service that accurately identifies the service performed."</p>

The National Correct Coding Initiative Policy Manual gives the following instruction: "Procedures should be reported with the most comprehensive CPT code that describes the services performed."

CPT guidance instructs that E/M (CPT codes 98000-98016, 99091, 99202-99499) should only be reported by Physicians or other qualified health care professionals. In accordance with CMS guidelines, the only qualified health care professionals that may report E/M services are nurse practitioners (NP), clinical nurse specialists (CNS), certified nurse midwives (CNM) and Physician assistants (PA), none of which are considered nonphysician health care professionals for purposes of this policy.

UnitedHealthcare will not reimburse E/M services (CPT codes 98000-98016, 99091, 99202-99499) when reported by nonphysician health care professionals reporting under their own individual or group tax identification number (TIN). For purposes of this policy, the specialties that are considered nonphysician health care professionals are listed below.

Nonphysician Healthcare Professionals

Addiction Medicine Specialist	Athletic Trainer Group
Audiology	Behavioral Analyst - Autism Program
Case Management	Certified Diabetic Educator
Child Psychology	Christian Science Practitioner
Counselor, Alcohol & Drug	Crisis Diversion
Doctor of Naprothy	Early Intervention
Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Counselor	Genetic Counselor
Hearing Instrument Specialist	Home Health Aide
Home Health Care Agency	Home Health/Home Infusion/Home IV Therapy
Home Health/Private Duty Nurse	Homemaker Aide
Homeopathic Medicine	Lactation Specialist
Licensed Professional Counselor	Licensed Vocational Nurse
Marriage & Family Therapy/Licensed Marriage & Family Therapy	Massage Therapy
Master of Social Work	Neuropsychology
Nurse, Licensed Practical	Nurse, Registered
Nutritionist (Registered Dietician)	Optician
Other Mental Health	Pastoral Counselor
Pediatric Nutrition	Psychiatric Social Work
Psychoanalyst	Psychology, Clinical (Doctor of Psychology)
Social Worker (Registered Social Worker)	Social Worker, Licensed Clinical/Medical
Social Worker, Marriage & Family	Substance Abuse Services, Alcohol & Drug
Surgical Technician	Visiting Nurse
Waiver Nursing	

There is a wide variety of CPT and Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes that specifically and accurately identify and describe the services and procedures performed by nonphysician health care professionals.

For more complete information regarding reporting E/M services from physical or occupational therapists refer to the Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation: PT, OT and Evaluation & Management Policy.

Definitions	
Physician	A Doctor of Medicine (MD) or Doctor of Osteopathy (DO)

Questions and Answers

1	<p>Q: Is it appropriate for a Registered Dietitian performing Medical Nutrition Therapy to report this service with CPT code 99401?</p> <p>A: No. CPT code 99401 is an E/M code which Registered Dietitians should not use to report services because they are nonphysician health care professionals. There are more accurate codes that identify and describe Medical Nutrition Therapy to be reported by Registered Dietitians, such as, CPT 97802.</p>
2	<p>Q: Is it appropriate for home health specialties performing a service in a patient's residence to report 99348?</p> <p>A: No. 99348 is an E/M code which home health specialties should not use to report services because they are nonphysician health care professionals. There are more specific CPT and HCPCS codes that accurately identify and describe the services and procedures performed by home health specialties.</p>
3	<p>Q: Is it appropriate for an Audiologist performing an evaluation to report this service with CPT code 99213?</p> <p>A: No. CPT code 99213 is an E/M code, which an Audiologist should not use to report services because they are nonphysician health care professionals. There are more accurate codes that describe evaluation services performed by an Audiologist (e.g. CPT code 92620).</p>

Resources

<p>American Medical Association, <i>Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®)</i> and associated publications and services</p> <p>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System, HCPCS Release and Code Sets</p> <p>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) publications</p> <p>Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS Manual System and other CMS publications and services</p>

History

1/12/2025	<p>Policy Version Change Added CPT codes 98000-98016</p>
4/1/2024	<p>Template Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transferred content to shared policy template that applies to both UnitedHealthcare Commercial and Individual Exchange benefit plans. • Updated Application section to indicate this Reimbursement Policy applies to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All UnitedHealthcare Commercial benefit plans ○ All Individual Exchange benefit plans
7/12/2023	<p>Policy Version Change Logo Updated History section: Entries prior to 7/12/2021 archived</p>
3/14/2010	<p>Policy implemented by UnitedHealthcare Employer & Individual</p>
10/14/2009	<p>Policy approved by National Reimbursement Forum</p>