



Reimbursement Policy

Subject: Sterilization

Effective Date: **08/03/18**

Committee Approval Obtained:
08/03/18

Section: **Surgery**

*****The most current version of the reimbursement policies can be found on our provider website. If you are using a printed version of this policy, please verify the information by going to <https://providers.amerigroup.com>. Under Quick Tools, select Reimbursement Policies > Medicare. *****

These policies serve as a guide to assist you in accurate claim submissions and to outline the basis for reimbursement if the service is covered by a member's Amerigroup Medicare Advantage benefit plan. The determination that a service, procedure, item, etc. is covered under a member's benefit plan is not a determination that you will be reimbursed. Services must meet authorization and medical necessity guidelines appropriate to the procedure and diagnosis as well as to the member's state of residence. You must follow proper billing and submission guidelines. You are required to use industry standard, compliant codes on all claim submissions. Services should be billed with CPT® codes, HCPCS codes and/or revenue codes. The codes denote the services and/or procedures performed. The billed code(s) are required to be fully supported in the medical record and/or office notes. Unless otherwise noted within the policy, our policies apply to participating providers and facilities; a non-contracting provider who accepts Medicare assignment will be reimbursed for services according to the original Medicare reimbursement rates.

If appropriate coding/billing guidelines or current reimbursement policies are not followed, Amerigroup Medicare Advantage may:

- Reject or deny the claim.
- Recover and/or recoup claim payment.

Amerigroup Medicare Advantage reimbursement policies are developed based on nationally accepted industry standards and coding principles. These policies may be superseded by mandates in provider, state, federal or CMS contracts and/or requirements. System logic or setup may prevent the loading of policies into the claims platforms in the same manner as described; however, Amerigroup Medicare Advantage strives to minimize these variations.

Amerigroup Medicare Advantage reserves the right to review and revise our policies periodically when necessary. When there is an update, we will publish the most current policy to this site.

Policy

Amerigroup Medicare Advantage allows reimbursement of sterilization procedures performed for the purpose of rendering a member permanently incapable of reproducing unless provider, federal or CMS contracts and/or requirements indicate otherwise.

	<p>Reimbursement is based on the applicable fee schedule or contracted/negotiated rate.</p> <p>Amerigroup Medicare Advantage considers reimbursement of sterilization procedures based on the following guideline — The sterilization is a necessary part of the treatment of an illness or injury.</p> <p>An informed consent form does not have to be submitted with claims.</p> <p>A valid consent form has to be properly executed and include all required signatures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member or member’s authorized representative • Interpreter, if applicable • Person obtaining the member's consent • Physician performing the sterilization procedure <p>If a sterilization procedure is performed in conjunction with a delivery, then multiple surgery guidelines apply (refer to the Amerigroup Medicare Advantage Multiple and Bilateral Surgery policy).</p>
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biennial review approved and effective 08/03/18: Policy language updated • Biennial review approved 06/06/16 • Initial approval effective 01/01/15
References and Research Materials	<p>This policy has been developed through consideration of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS • State contract • American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists • Code of Federal Regulations Subpart F — Sterilizations §441.250-§441.258
Definitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sterilization: the process of making a person permanently unable to reproduce • General Reimbursement Policy Definitions
Related Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple and Bilateral Surgery: Professional and Facility Reimbursement
Related Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None