



Reimbursement Policy

Subject: Code and Clinical Editing Guidelines

Effective Date: **11/09/15**

Committee Approval Obtained:
10/03/16

Section: **Administration**

*****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 > Medicaid/Medicare. Note: State-specific exemptions may apply. Please refer to the Exemptions section below for specific exemptions based on your state. *****

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 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 both participating and nonparticipating providers and facilities.

If appropriate coding/billing guidelines or current Reimbursement Policies are not followed, Amerigroup may:

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

Amerigroup 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 These policies may be superseded by mandates in provider, state, federal or CMS contracts and/or requirements.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 strives to minimize these variations.

Amerigroup 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 applies Code and Clinical Editing Guidelines (CEG) to evaluate claims for accuracy and adherence to accepted national industry standards and plan benefits, unless provider, state, federal or CMS contracts and/or requirements indicate otherwise.

	<p>Amerigroup uses software products that ensure compliance with standard code edits and rules. These products increase consistency of payment for providers by ensuring correct coding and billing practices are followed. CCEG consists of the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code editing software, CMS National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) edits and Outpatient Code Edits (OCE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Code editing software is updated biannually to conform to changes in coding standards ○ National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) edits are updated on a quarterly basis according to CMS published updates • Clinical criteria • Licensed clinical medical review • Claims processing platform <p>Per state requirements, Amerigroup publishes its use of specific code editing software. Amerigroup only customizes applicable CCEG measures due to compelling business reasons.</p> <p>CCEG measures are updated as applicable and as needed to incorporate new codes, code definition changes and edit rule changes. All claims submitted after the configuration implementation date, regardless of service date, will be processed according to up-to-date CCEG measures. No retrospective payment changes, adjustments and/or requests for refunds will be made when processing changes are a result of new code editing rules within a module update. The member is not responsible and should not be balance-billed for any procedures for which payment has been denied or reduced as the result of CCEG measures.</p> <p>Nonreimbursable Amerigroup will not reimburse in the event of a conflict with CCEG.</p>
Exemptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amerigroup Community Care in Maryland does not apply National Correct Coding (CCI) edits that require bundling of outpatient services to hospitals in accordance with Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC).
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biennial review approved 10/03/16: Policy template updated • Review approved and effective 11/09/15: Policy language updated • Biennial review approved 10/31/14: Maryland exemption added; template updated • Biennial review approved 05/21/12: Policy template updated • Review approved and effective 07/12/10: Resources used to develop CCEG updated; timeline requirements for system updates deleted; services reviewed and analyzed clarified; policy

	<p>template/History updated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial committee approval 05/16/07 with effective date of 05/01/05: Policy adapted from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bundling Guidelines, #05-002, effective 05/01/05 ○ ClaimCheck[®], #05-003, effective 05/01/05 ○ Consistency Guidelines, #05-005, effective 02/05
References and Research Materials	<p>This policy has been developed through consideration of medical necessity, generally accepted standards of medical practice, and review of medical literature and government approval status, in addition to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS • State Medicaid • Amerigroup state contracts
Definitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reimbursement Policy Definitions
Related Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Related Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None