



## Reimbursement Policy

### Subject: Sterilization

Effective Date: <b>04/14/14</b>	Committee Approval Obtained: <b>06/06/16</b>	Section: <b>Surgery</b>
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\*\*\*\*\*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 These policies may be superseded by mandates in provider, state, federal or CMS contracts and/or requirements.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.

<b>Policy</b>	Amerigroup allows reimbursement of sterilization procedures performed for the purpose of rendering a member permanently incapable of reproducing, unless provider, state, federal or CMS contracts and/or requirements indicate otherwise. Reimbursement is based on the applicable fee schedule or contracted/negotiated rate
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	<p><b>and</b> receipt of a state-approved consent form properly executed per state requirements.</p> <p>Amerigroup considers reimbursement of sterilization procedures based on the following guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The member has given informed consent by voluntarily signing the applicable consent form: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Not less than 30 and not more than 180 calendar days prior to the procedure. (If more than 180 calendar days prior to the procedure, a new consent form will be required.)</li> <li>○ In the case of premature delivery or emergency abdominal surgery, not less than 72 hours prior to the procedure.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>At the time the voluntary informed consent is obtained, the member must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 21 years of age</li> <li>• Legally and mentally competent</li> <li>• Not institutionalized (e.g., mental hospital or correctional facility)</li> </ul> <p>Consent for sterilization cannot be obtained while the patient to be sterilized is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In labor or childbirth</li> <li>• Is under the influence of alcohol or other agents affecting awareness</li> <li>• Seeking to obtain or obtaining an abortion</li> </ul> <p>The applicable Sterilization Consent Form must be submitted with claims for professional and/or facility services. If a valid consent form is not received, the claim may be rejected or denied. A <b>valid</b> consent form has to be properly executed and include all required signatures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member or member's authorized representative</li> <li>• Interpreter, if applicable</li> <li>• Person obtaining the member's consent</li> <li>• Physician performing the sterilization procedure</li> </ul> <p>If a sterilization procedure is performed in conjunction with a delivery, then multiple surgery guidelines apply (refer to the Amerigroup Multiple and Bilateral Surgery policy).</p>
<p><b>Exemptions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amerigroup Kansas, Inc. does not require a consent form when sterilization results from the treatment of a medical condition; a note must be on the face of the claim that states the medical condition which caused the sterility.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amerigroup Community Care in Maryland does not require a consent form to be submitted for claims processing.</li> <li>• Amerigroup Community Care in Tennessee does not allow facility reimbursement for sterilization procedures when performed in conjunction with a cesarean delivery or vaginal delivery with sterilization when reimbursed utilizing DRG methodology.</li> <li>• Amerigroup Washington, Inc. waives the 30-day waiting period for sterilization when the client requests that sterilization be performed at the time of delivery and completes the agency's Sterilization Consent Form if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The client became eligible for medical assistance during the last month of pregnancy.</li> <li>○ The client did not obtain medical care until the last month of pregnancy.</li> <li>○ The client was a substance abuser during pregnancy but is not alcohol or drug impaired at the time of delivery.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Medicare Advantage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Does not allow reimbursement for sterilizations unless it is a necessary part of the treatment of an illness or injury.</li> <li>○ Does not require informed consent forms submitted with claims under the Medicare Advantage product; however, the form will be required for coordination of benefits if a claim for the same member is also submitted for a Medicaid product under Amerigroup.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Dell Children’s Health Plan is not responsible for sterilization services. <b>NOTE:</b> Texas Medicaid &amp; Healthcare Partnership (TMHP) reimburses for sterilizations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>History</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update due to regulatory directive: Maryland exemption added effective 09/01/15</li> <li>• Approved 09/15/16 and effective 12/01/16: Dell Children’s Health Plan exemption added</li> <li>• Biennial review approved 06/06/16: New Jersey exemption removed</li> <li>• Effective 12/31/15: Exited Florida Medicare</li> <li>• Effective 06/01/14: Exited Ohio</li> <li>• Review approved 04/14/14: Policy language updated</li> <li>• Biennial review approved 07/30/12 and effective 04/15/13: Tennessee exemption added; New Jersey exemption updated; Policy template and background updated</li> <li>• Review approved 05/03/10 and effective 09/07/10: Updated consent form receipt requirements; Added required signatures to include member’s authorized representative and interpreter; Added Amerigroup Amerivantage (Medicare Advantage)</li> </ul>

	<p>exemption; Deleted benefit coverage information; Removed Tennessee exemptions; Updated template format</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review approved and effective 07/14/08: New Jersey exemption added</li> <li>• Initial approval and effective date 12/12/06</li> </ul>
<b>References and Research Materials</b>	<p>This policy has been developed through consideration of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CMS</li> <li>• State Medicaid</li> <li>• State contracts</li> <li>• American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)</li> <li>• Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart F — Sterilizations §441.250-§441.258</li> </ul>
<b>Definitions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sterilization</b> is the process of making a person permanently unable to reproduce</li> <li>• <b>General Reimbursement Policy Definitions</b></li> </ul>
<b>Related Policies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple and Bilateral Surgery: Professional and Facility Reimbursement</li> </ul>
<b>Related Materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>