

UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage Medical Policy Update Bulletin Quick View: October 2026



A list of recently approved, revised, and/or retired Medical Policies and/or Medical Benefit Drug Policies is provided below for your reference. **For a comprehensive summary of the latest updates, refer to the [Medical Policy Update Bulletin: October 2026](#).**

Take Note

Medical Records Documentation Used for Reviews

Effective **Nov. 1, 2026**, medical record documentation guidelines have been developed in an effort to decrease the need for repeated requests for additional information and to improve turnaround time for coverage decisions. To view a list of applicable medical records documentation which are used and/or may be requested for case reviews, when applicable for certain services, refer to the guidelines titled [Medical Records Documentation Used for Reviews: Medicare Advantage](#).

Medical Policy Updates

Policy Title	Status	Effective Date
Category III CPT Codes	Updated	Oct. 1, 2026
Corneal Topography	Updated	Oct. 1, 2026
Ear, Nose, and Throat Procedures	Updated	Oct. 1, 2026
Experimental Procedures and Items, Investigational Devices, and Clinical Trials	Updated	Oct. 1, 2026
Gender Dysphoria and Gender Reassignment Surgery	Updated	Oct. 1, 2026
Medications/Drugs (Outpatient/Part B)	Revised	Oct. 1, 2026
Percutaneous Coronary Interventions	Updated	Oct. 1, 2026
Percutaneous Ventricular Assist Device	Updated	Oct. 1, 2026

Medical Benefit Drug Policy Updates

Policy Title	Status	Effective Date
Medicare Part B Step Therapy Programs	Revised	Jan. 1, 2027

General Information

The inclusion of a health service (e.g., test, drug, device, or procedure) in this bulletin indicates only that UnitedHealthcare has recently adopted a new policy and/or updated, revised, replaced, or retired an existing policy; it does not imply that UnitedHealthcare provides coverage for the health service. Note that most benefit plan documents exclude from benefit coverage health services identified as investigational or unproven/not medically necessary. Physicians and other health care professionals may not seek or collect payment from a member for services not covered by the applicable benefit plan unless first obtaining the member's written consent, acknowledging that the service is not covered by the benefit plan and that they will be billed directly for the service.

Note: The absence of a policy does not automatically indicate or imply coverage. As always, coverage for a health service must be determined in accordance with the member's benefit plan and any applicable CMS, federal, or state regulatory requirements. Additionally, UnitedHealthcare reserves the right to review the clinical evidence supporting the safety and effectiveness of a medical technology prior to rendering a coverage determination.

UnitedHealthcare respects the expertise of the physicians, health care professionals, and their staff who participate in our network. Our goal is to support you and your patients in making the most informed decisions regarding the choice of quality and cost-effective care, and to support practice staff with a simple and predictable administrative experience. The Medical Policy Update Bulletin was developed to share important information regarding changes to our Medicare Advantage Medical Policies and Medical Benefit Drug Policies. When information in this bulletin conflicts with applicable state and/or federal law, UnitedHealthcare follows such applicable federal and/or state law.

Policy Update Classifications

New

New coverage guidelines have been adopted for a health service (e.g., test, drug, device, or procedure)

Updated

An existing policy has been reviewed and changes have not been made to the coverage guidelines; however, items such as the definitions or references may have been updated

Revised

An existing policy has been reviewed and revisions have been made to the coverage guidelines

Replaced

An existing policy has been replaced with a new or different policy

Retired

An existing policy has been retired



The complete library of UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage Medical Policies and Medical Benefit Drug Policies is available at UHCprovider.com/policies > For Medicare Advantage Plans > [Medical Policies](#).