

Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation: Speech Therapy 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 Community Plan reimbursement policies uses 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 Community Plan’s reimbursement policy for the services described and is not intended to address every aspect of a reimbursement situation. Accordingly, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan 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 Community Plan enrollees.

Other factors affecting reimbursement supplement, modify or, in some cases, supersede this policy. These factors include, but are not limited to: federal &/or state regulatory requirements, 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 Community Plan due to programming or other constraints; however, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan strives to minimize these variations.

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan 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

This reimbursement policy applies to UnitedHealthcare Community Plan Medicaid and Medicare products.

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.

Policy

Overview

This policy describes CPT codes from the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Evaluation and Management, Adaptive Behavior Assessment and other sections of the CPT manual that will not be reimbursed, when reported by Speech-Language Therapists/ Pathologists.

Reimbursement Guidelines

Consistent with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the American Medical Association (AMA), UnitedHealthcare Community Plan will not reimburse Speech-Language Therapists/Pathologists for therapeutic procedures, evaluation and management services, adaptive behavior assessments and other codes listed on the “Services Not Reimbursable to Speech-Language Therapists/Pathologists” code list found below.

Speech-language pathology services are those services provided:

- Within the scope of practice of Speech-Language Therapists/Pathologists and consistent with State and local law, in which the services are furnished.
- Necessary for the diagnosis and treatment of speech and language disorders, which result in a communication disability; or
- For the diagnosis and treatment of swallowing disorders (dysphagia), regardless of the presence of a communication disability.

Consistent with CMS, services must relate directly and specifically to a written speech therapy treatment plan (also known as a plan of care or plan of treatment) and must be established before treatment has begun. Therapy may be initiated by a Speech-Language Therapists/ Pathologists, based on the plan of care. The plan of care must specify the speech therapy services planned.

There shall be different plans of care for each type of therapy discipline. For example, a Speech Therapist may not provide services under a Physical Therapist plan of care. However, both may be treating the patient for the same condition.

Modifiers are used to identify therapy services, whether or not financial limitations are in effect. Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) modifier GN (services delivered under an outpatient speech-language pathology plan of care) should be submitted with any speech therapy service codes, provided by a Speech-Language Pathologist, that are considered by CMS to be “always therapy” services. However, the use of the GN modifier does not allow a Speech Therapist/Pathologist to deliver services they are not qualified and recognized to perform.

Other reimbursement policies that address reimbursement for the codes reported, may also apply.

Attachments

[CS-Services-Not-Reimbursable-to-Speech-Language-Therapists-Pathologists](#)

A list of codes representing services that UnitedHealthcare Community does not reimburse when reported by Speech-Language Therapists/Pathologists

Resources

Individual state Medicaid regulations, manuals & fee schedules

American Medical Association, *Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®)* and associated publications and services

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS Manual System and other CMS publications and services

History

1/1/2023	Policy Version Change Attachments Section: List updated History Section: Entries prior to 1/1/2021 archived
1/1/2022	Policy Version Change Attachments Section: List updated History Section: Entries prior to 1/1/2020 archived
1/1/2021	Policy Version Change

	Attachments Section: List updated History Section: Entries prior to 1/1/2019 archived
12/8/2007	Policy implemented by UnitedHealthcare Community & State