

# UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of North Carolina Medical Policy Update Bulletin: December 2023

## Take Note

### Annual CPT and HCPCS Code Updates

Beginning **Jan. 1, 2024**, all applicable Medical Policies and Medical Benefit Drug Policies will be updated to reflect the 2024 Current Procedural Terminology (CPT<sup>®</sup>) and Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code additions, revisions, and deletions. Refer to the following sources for information on the code updates:

- [American Medical Association: Current Procedural Terminology: CPT<sup>®</sup>](#)
- [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services: Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System \(HCPCS\) Quarterly Update](#)

Complete details on impacted policies and corresponding code edits will be provided in the January 2024 edition of the Medical Policy Update Bulletin.

## Medical Policy Updates

Updated		
Policy Title	Effective Date	Summary of Changes
Durable Medical Equipment, Orthotics, Medical Supplies, and Repairs/Replacements (for North Carolina Only)	Feb. 1, 2024	<p><b>Definitions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removed definition of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Injury</li> <li>○ Medical Supplies</li> <li>○ Reasonable Useful Lifetime</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Benefit Considerations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Added content/language (relocated from the <i>Coverage Rationale</i> section of the policy) pertaining to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Contact lenses and scleral bandages (shells)</li> <li>○ Implanted devices</li> <li>○ Lymphedema stockings for the arm</li> <li>○ Medical supplies</li> <li>○ Orthotic braces</li> <li>○ Trachea-esophageal and voice aid prosthetics</li> <li>○ Coverage limitations and exclusions</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Supporting Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated <i>References</i> section to reflect the most current information</li> </ul>

## General Information

The inclusion of a health service (e.g., test, drug, device, or procedure) in this bulletin indicates only that UnitedHealthcare is adopting 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 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 UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of North Carolina Medical Policy, Medical Benefit Drug Policy, Coverage Determination Guideline, and Utilization Review Guideline updates. 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 clinical coverage criteria 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 clinical coverage criteria; however, items such as the clinical evidence, FDA information, and/or list(s) of applicable codes may have been updated

### *Revised*

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

### *Replaced*

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

### *Retired*

The health service(s) addressed in the policy are no longer being managed or are considered to be proven/medically necessary and are therefore not excluded as unproven/not medically necessary services, unless coverage guidelines or criteria are otherwise documented in another policy



The complete library of Medical Policies and Coverage Determination Guidelines for UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of North Carolina is available at [UHCprovider.com/NC](https://UHCprovider.com/NC) > Medicaid (Community Plan) > Current Policies and Clinical Guidelines > [UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of North Carolina Medical Policies and Coverage Determination Guidelines](#).