Payment Policy: Hospital Visit Codes Billed w Labs
Reference Number: CC.PP.023
Product Types: ALL
Effective Date: 01/01/2013
Last Review Date: 06/20/2018

See Important Reminder at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

**Policy Overview**
Hospitals may receive reimbursement for visit codes (evaluation and management services) in addition to a laboratory test, but only when the hospital provides a room for an evaluation and management service by a professional. If a separate and significant evaluation and management service is provided to the patient in addition to the lab work, modifier -25 should be appended.

**Application**
This policy applies to outpatient hospital claims.

**Reimbursement**

**Claims Reimbursement Edit**
The Health Plan’s clinical code editing software will flag all hospital claims billed with the modifier -25 for prepayment clinical validation. Clinical validation occurs prior to claims payment. Once a claim has been clinically validated, it is either released for payment or denied for incorrect use of the modifier.

**Rationale for Edit**
A hospital should not bill a visit code, for use of an exam room, for a registered outpatient if the patient was not seen by a provider. Billing a visit code in addition to the laboratory visit is inappropriate when the only other service performed was the collection of a specimen. Like all other procedures, room charges are included in the reimbursement for the procedure.

Modifier -25 should only be used to indicate that a “significant, separately identifiable evaluation and management service (was provided) by the same physician or Other Qualified Health Care Professional on the same day of the procedure or other service.”

**Pre-payment Clinical Claims review**
A significant, separately identifiable E/M service is defined or substantiated by documentation that satisfies the relevant criteria for the respective E/M service to be reported. If medical records do not indicate that significant, separately identifiable services were performed, Centene covers the primary procedure or other service, and denies the secondary E/M billed with Modifier 25.

To avoid incorrect denials providers should assign all applicable diagnosis codes that support the E/M services reported.
Documentation Requirements
Documentation from the physician or other qualified health care professional should indicate that an evaluation and management service was provided. The key components of an E/M service (history, examination and medical decision making) must be documented.

Coding and Modifier Information
This payment policy references Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®). CPT® is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association. All CPT® codes and descriptions are copyrighted 2017, American Medical Association. All rights reserved. CPT codes and CPT descriptions are from current manuals and those included herein are not intended to be all-inclusive and are included for informational purposes only. Codes referenced in this payment policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPT/HCPCS Code</th>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>99211</td>
<td>Office or other outpatient visit for the evaluation and management of an established patient that may not require the presence of a physician or other qualified health care professional. Usually, the presenting problem(s) are minimal. Typically, 5 minutes are spent performing or supervising these services</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>99201</td>
<td>Office or other outpatient visit for the evaluation and management of a new patient, which requires these 3 key components: A problem focused history; A problem focused examination; Straightforward medical decision making. Counseling and/or coordination of care with other physicians, other qualified health care professionals, or agencies are provided consistent with the nature of the problem(s) and the patient’s and/or family’s needs. Usually, the presenting problem(s) are self limited or minor. Typically, 10 minutes are spent face-to-face with the patient and/or family.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modifier</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-25</td>
<td>Significant, Separately Identifiable Evaluation and Management Service by the Same Physician or Other Qualified Health Care Professional on the Same Day of the Procedure or Other Service</td>
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</tbody>
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Definitions
Not Applicable

Related Policies
Not Applicable
Related Documents or Resources
Not Applicable

References
5. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS Manual System and other CMS publications and services.
6. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) publications.

Revision History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>05/09/2017</td>
<td>Converted to new template and conducted review.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/26/2017</td>
<td>Corrected Spelling Error in Title</td>
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<tr>
<td>06/20/2018</td>
<td>Conducted annual review</td>
</tr>
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Important Reminder
For the purposes of this payment policy, “Health Plan” means a health plan that has adopted this payment policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any other of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this payment policy is to provide a guide to payment, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage and payment determinations and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage and payment determinations and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This payment policy is effective as of the date determined by Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this payment policy. This payment policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this payment policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this payment policy, and additional payment policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This payment policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise
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HOSPITAL VISIT CODES W LABS

professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible
for the medical advice and treatment of members. This payment policy is not intended to
recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in
connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this policy are independent contractors who exercise independent
judgment and over whom Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents
or employees of Health Plan.

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Providers, members and their representatives are bound to the terms and conditions expressed
herein through the terms of their contracts. Where no such contract exists, providers, members
and their representatives agree to be bound by such terms and conditions by providing services to
members and/or submitting claims for payment for such services.

Note: For Medicaid members, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the
coverage provisions in this payment policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence.
Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this payment
policy.

Note: For Medicare members, to ensure consistency with the Medicare National Coverage
Determinations (NCD) and Local Coverage Determinations (LCD), all applicable NCDs and
LCDs should be reviewed prior to applying the criteria set forth in this payment policy. Refer to

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