



Upcoming change to code editing processes - revised

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, Blue Plus and BlueLink TPA (Blue Cross) issued Provider Bulletin P7-11 entitled “Upcoming change to code editing processes” on March 10, 2011. This bulletin is a complete revision of the previously issued bulletin.

Venipuncture / CCI

Blue Cross will not implement the edits for venipuncture as previously announced. Blue Cross will continue to review Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) industry edits and separately address any adoption of those edits in future bulletins. The full set of CCI edits will not be adopted at this time.

Specimen or other handling fees

Effective for claims received July 1, 2011 and after, Blue Cross will no longer separately reimburse for specimen or other handling fees (99000, 99001, 99002). These services will be denied as incidental, or included in, a primary service. Blue Cross is not instituting a global denial that would be applied to all claims. However, when codes 99000, 99001 and/or 99002 are submitted with the same date of service as other select services (defined in the section below) and performed by the same billing provider, the handling fees are considered duplicative billing and will not be separately reimbursed.

Examples of other select services

Codes 99000-99002 will be denied as incidental or included in procedures if a specimen or other handling or conveyance is taken or furnished with evaluation and management (E/M) services. E/M codes already include reimbursement for handling of specimens or other devices. The handling fees may also edit against other codes as well.

Impacted Codes: 99201-99215, 99381-99397, 80047-89325, 10040-19380, 20005-29916, and other such surgical codes where a specimen is gathered.

When is the specimen or other handling edit effective?

Blue Cross is instituting this code-auditing edit effective with claims processed beginning July 1, 2011. We have moved the effective date for this edit back to align with our standard fee schedule implementation and contract renewals.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact provider services at **(651) 662-5200** or **1-800-262-0820**.