

PROVIDER QUICK POINTS

Provider information



January 25, 2013

Temporary edit removal – 99214-25 and 99215-25

The information in this Quick Points replaces Quick Points QP19R1-12 entitled “Coding edit change for modifier 25” that was published on November 19, 2012.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota (Blue Cross) uses an automated procedure code management editing tool in our claims processing system. This tool has been adopted and modified by Blue Cross to ensure a fair claim review process and appropriate payment on submitted CPT/HCPCS codes. Revisions to the editing tool are generally done after major national coding updates and, periodically, as edit inconsistencies are identified and/or needed.

In addition to our normal edit implementation Blue Cross intends on instituting additional edits based on audits conducted over the past year. One proposed edit will automatically deny the evaluation and management (E/M) services 99214 and 99215 when submitted on the same day as a surgery/procedure, regardless of the presence of a -25 modifier appended to 99214 or 99215. This particular edit was inadvertently activated October 12, 2012, without sufficient lead time for our providers to comment and prepare for the change.

Blue Cross is still evaluating all of our edits and while it is still our intention to add this or a similar edit in the future, until such time, Blue Cross will be removing the aforementioned edit and will run recovery reports for claims inappropriately denied. The recovery criteria will include:

- Codes: 99214-25 or 99215-25
- Explanation of Health Care Benefits (EOB) denial: “This charge has already been considered as part of the global procedure that includes this service. Therefore, no additional payment will be made. Because you are a participating network provider, this charge is your responsibility.”
- Dates processed: October 1, 2012, through January 20, 2013

There is no need to appeal the denials because of the recovery that will be done; however, if you have appealed the denial, it will not be sent back to you nor will you be notified separately. This is being done to lessen duplication.

Questions?

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