

COMMERCIAL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

Administration of Moderate (Conscious) Sedation

Active

Policy Number: Anesthesia Services – 002
Policy Title: Administration of Moderate (Conscious) Sedation
Section: Anesthesia Services
Effective Date: 10/02/23

Description

This policy addresses coding and reimbursement for administration of moderate (also known as conscious) sedation.

Definitions

Moderate sedation: a drug induced depression of consciousness during which patients respond purposefully to verbal commands, either alone or accompanied by light tactile stimulation. No interventions are required to maintain cardiovascular function or a patent airway, and spontaneous ventilation is adequate.

Policy Statement

The administration of moderate sedation is eligible for separate reimbursement.

There are 2 categories of moderate sedation codes:

- Moderate sedation performed by the same physician or qualified health professional (QHP) performing the procedure (99151, 99152, 99153, G0500)
- Moderate sedation performed by a different physician or QHP than the one performing the procedure (99155, 99156, 99157)

Same physician/QHP provides moderate sedation (99151, 99152, 99153, G0500)

If the physician or QHP performing the procedure also provides the moderate sedation required for the procedure, the treating physician or QHP should report the appropriate procedure code(s) and moderate sedation code(s), 99151, 99152, 99153, G0500.

Other physician/QHP provides moderate sedation (99155, 99156, 99157)

Consistent with Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) guidelines, when a second physician other than the health care professional performing the diagnostic or therapeutic services provides moderate (conscious) sedation in the facility setting (e.g., hospital, outpatient hospital/ambulatory surgery center, skilled nursing facility), the second physician reports the associated moderate sedation procedure/service 99155, 99156, 99157; when these services are performed by the second physician in the nonfacility setting (e.g., physician office, freestanding imaging center) codes 99155, 99156, 99157 would not be reported, and are not eligible for reimbursement.

Documentation Submission

The medical record must clearly identify the professional or professionals providing the sedation



service.

Documentation must identify and describe the services performed. If a denial is appealed, this documentation must be submitted with the appeal.

Coverage

Eligible services will be subject to the subscriber benefits, applicable fee schedule amount and any coding edits.

The following applies to all claim submissions.

All coding and reimbursement is subject to all terms of the Provider Service Agreement and subject to changes, updates, or other requirements of coding rules and guidelines. All codes are subject to federal HIPAA rules, and in the case of medical code sets (HCPCS, CPT, ICD), only codes valid for the date of service may be submitted or accepted. Reimbursement for all Health Services is subject to current Blue Cross Medical Policy criteria, policies found in the Provider Policy and Procedure Manual sections, Reimbursement Policies and all other provisions of the Provider Service Agreement (Agreement).

In the event that any new codes are developed during the course of Provider's Agreement, such new codes will be paid according to the standard or applicable Blue Cross fee schedule until such time as a new agreement is reached and supersedes the Provider's current Agreement.

All payment for codes based on Relative Value Units (RVU) will include a site of service differential and will be calculated using the appropriate facility or non-facility components, based on the site of service identified, as submitted by Provider.

Coding

The following codes are included below for informational purposes only and are subject to change without notice. Inclusion or exclusion of a code does not constitute or imply subscriber coverage or provider reimbursement.

CPT/HCPCS Modifier: N/A
ICD-10 Diagnosis: N/A
ICD-10 Procedure: N/A
CPT/HCPCS: 99151 99152 99153 99155 99156 99157 G0500
Revenue Codes: N/A

Resources

CPT® Assistant
Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®)
Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS)

Policy History

10/21/2015	Initial Committee Approval
06/15/2020	Annual Policy Review
06/29/2021	Annual Policy Review
09/26/2023	Annual Policy Review



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