

After Hours and Weekend Care Policy, Professional

You are responsible for submission of accurate claims. This reimbursement policy is intended to ensure that you are reimbursed based on the procedure code or codes that correctly describe the health care services provided to individuals whose behavioral health benefits are administered by Optum, including but not limited to UnitedHealthcare members. This reimbursement policy is also applicable to behavioral health benefit plans administered by OptumHealth Behavioral Solutions of California.

Our behavioral health reimbursement policies may use Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®*), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) or other procedure coding guidelines. References to CPT or other sources are for definitional purposes only and do not imply any right to reimbursement. This reimbursement policy applies to all health care services billed on CMS 1500 forms and, when specified, to services billed on the UB-04 claim form and to electronic claim submissions (i.e., 837p and 837i) and for claims submitted online through provider portals. Coding methodology, industry-standard reimbursement logic, regulatory requirements, benefits design and other factors are considered in developing reimbursement policy.

This information is intended to serve only as a general reference resource regarding our reimbursement policy for the services described and is not intended to address every aspect of a reimbursement situation. Accordingly, Optum may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying this policy to behavioral health care services provided in a particular case. Further, the policy does not address all issues related to reimbursement for behavioral health care services provided to members. Other factors affecting reimbursement may supplement, modify or, in some cases, supersede this policy. These factors may include, but are not limited to: member's benefit coverage, provider contracts and/or legislative mandates. Finally, this policy may not be implemented exactly the same way on the different electronic claim processing systems used by Optum due to programming or other constraints; however, Optum strives to minimize these variations.

Optum may modify this reimbursement policy at any time by publishing a new version of the policy on this website. However, the information presented in this policy is accurate and current as of the date of publication.

*CPT® is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association

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Application

This reimbursement policy applies to all health care services billed on CMS 1500 forms and to services billed on the UB-04 claim form and to electronic claim submissions (i.e., 837p and 837i) and for claims submitted online through provider portals. This policy applies to all commercial and Medicare products, all network and non-network physicians and other qualified health care professionals, including, but not limited to, non-network authorized and percent of charge contract physicians and other qualified health care professionals..

Policy

Overview

After hours or weekend care (CPT®) codes represent services provided, when an individual physician or other health care professional is required to render the services outside of regular posted office hours to treat a patient's urgent illness or condition. This policy outlines when after hours or weekend care codes are considered for separate reimbursement.

Reimbursement Guidelines



The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) considers reimbursement for Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) codes 99050, 99051, 99053, 99056, 99058 and 99060 to be bundled into the payment for other services provided on the same day.

CPT Codes 99050, 99051, 99053, 99056, 99058 or 99060

Consistent with CMS, Optum will not separately reimburse CPT codes 99053, 99056, 99058 or 99060.

Questions and Answers

Q: Why doesn't Optum provide reimbursement for CPT codes 99053, 99056, 99058 or 99060?

A: The After Hours and Weekend Care policy is intended to reimburse participating primary care providers for services that are outside their regular posted business hours as an alternative to more costly emergency room or urgent care center services. Reimbursement for CPT codes 99053, 99056, 99058 or 99060 would not accomplish this purpose and are not reimbursed by CMS.

Codes bundled into the payment for other services provided on the same day

CPT Code Section

99050

99051

99053

99056

99058

99060

Resources

American Medical Association, *Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®)* and associated publications and services

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) publications

History

March, 2023

Policy approved by the Payment Integrity Oversight & Governance Committee

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