



Implementation of the National Correct Coding Initiative Medically Unlikely Edits for Outpatient Hospital and Durable Medical Equipment Services

The Affordable Care Act requires that state Medicaid agencies incorporate the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) edits and methodologies for Medicaid fee-for-service claims. Louisiana Medicaid has implemented all of the NCCI methodologies with the exception of the Medically Unlikely Edits (MUE) for Outpatient Hospital (OPH) and Durable Medical Equipment (DME) services.

Louisiana Medicaid will implement NCCI MUEs for OPH and DME claims with the implementation of the new ClaimsXten editing software. **The edit changes will affect claims beginning with the remittance advice of March 28, 2023.**

MUEs are units of service (UOS) edits which define the maximum number of units that are likely to be reported when a service is submitted correctly for applicable Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) or Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes. Each line of a claim is adjudicated separately against the MUE value for the HCPCS/CPT code reported on a claim line. If the unit of service exceeds the MUE value, the entire line is denied.

Outpatient Hospital and DME providers may see edit message, "809" which pertains specifically to NCCI MUE edits:

809 - 'CCI: Units of service exceeds medically unlikely edit'

Providers may occasionally report UOS in excess of the MUE value by reporting the same code on more than one line of claim when medically necessary and supported by clinical documentation. Modifier usage is acceptable but will not override a MUE denial.

Prior authorization of services does not guarantee payment or supersede NCCI editing. Services approved through Prior Authorization but denied due to an NCCI MUE edit are not payable and a reconsideration of the prior authorization should not be submitted. Providers may not bill recipients for service denied by NCCI MUE edits or use any type of Recipient Waiver of Liability or Advanced Beneficiary Notice to obtain payment from the beneficiary.

The MUE value for applicable procedure codes is determined by the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). These edits are updated quarterly by CMS. For more information on "The Medicaid National Correct Coding Initiative," please visit the CMS website below:

<https://www.cms.gov/medicare-medicare-coordination/national-correct-coding-initiative-ncci/ncci-medicare>

Questions regarding this message and fee-for-service updates are to be directed to Gainwell Technologies Provider Relations at (800) 473-2783 or (225) 924-5040.