



National Correct Coding Initiative

Update: Preventive Care Codes vs Immunization Administration Codes

On January 1, 2013, new Procedure-to-Procedure (PTP) edits were implemented in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) that paired immunization administration codes with preventive care codes. Billing these code combinations on the same date by the same provider could have resulted in the preventive medicine code being denied. CMS has subsequently decided, after receiving comments from the American Academy of Pediatrics and state Medicaid agencies, to permit states to deactivate these edits through the end of 2013, if they choose to do so. CMS stated, "It is understood that immunizations are commonly administered in conjunction with a comprehensive preventive medicine evaluation and that, when this occurs, both services are payable." It would be expected by Louisiana Medicaid that all services provided are medically necessary and appropriately documented in the patient record. Further guidance from CMS for 2014 on the deactivation of these code pairs is expected.*

*Update: CMS has released updated guidance related to these services that no longer includes the option of deactivation of the code pairs. **Effective January 2014**, Louisiana Medicaid fee for service (legacy) and Bayou Health Shared Savings Plan claims processing must reactivate these edits. **However**, CMS does provide the following guidance that will allow both the immunization administration and the preventive medicine evaluation and management (E/M) service to be reimbursed.

"If a Medicaid beneficiary receives one or more immunizations and a "significant, separately identifiable" preventive-medicine evaluation and management (E/M) service from the same provider on the same date of service, the provider's Medicaid claim(s) should include both the immunization administration code... and the comprehensive preventive-medicine E/M code...with modifier 25 appended...."

If the provider ...bills a comprehensive preventive-medicine E/M code for the same day and does not append modifier 25, the Medicaid PTP edits will deny payment of the preventive-medicine E/M code."

Legacy Louisiana Medicaid and Bayou Health Shared Plan claims processing will reimburse both the immunization administration and the preventive medicine E/M services when modifier -25 is properly appended to the preventive medicine procedure code. Further details will be provided on www.lamedicaid.com and in remittance advice messages closer to the implementation of this change.

All Bayou Health Prepaid Plans have implemented NCCI editing, but each may have a different billing policy related to the mandate. It is understood that the Prepaid Plans will allow appropriate use of modifier-25 if the code pairs in question are activated in their claim processing systems. Please contact the Prepaid Plans directly for information specific to their implementation, policies, and any billing instructions.

For questions related to this information as it pertains to legacy Medicaid or Bayou Health Shared Savings Plans, please contact Molina Medicaid Solutions Provider Services at (800) 473-2783 or (225) 924-5040.
