

Payment Policy

Preventive and Problem Oriented E&M Reduction	
Original effect date:	Revision date:
07/08/2017	01/01/2021

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Blue Shield of California payment policy may follow industry standard recommendations from various sources such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the American Medical Association (AMA), Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) and/or other professional organizations and societies for individual provider scope or other coding guidelines. The above referenced payment policy applies to all health care services rendered by a professional provider billed on CMS 1500 forms. This payment policy is intended to serve as a general overview and does not address every aspect of the claims reimbursement methodology. This information is intended to serve only as a general reference regarding Blue Shield's payment policy and is not intended to address every facet of a reimbursement situation. Blue Shield of California may use sound discretion in interpreting and applying this policy to health care services provided in a particular case. Furthermore, the policy does not address all payment attributes related to reimbursement for health care services provided to a member. Other factors affecting reimbursement may supplement, modify or, in some cases, supersede this policy such as coding methodology, industry-standard reimbursement logic, regulatory/legislative requirements, benefit design, medical and drug policies.

Application

Blue Shield applies this policy when a preventive visit is billed with a problem oriented evaluation and management service; performed by the same physician and/or other health care professional of the same group, reporting the same Federal Tax Identification number (TIN), for the same patient, during the same imaging session.

Policy

This policy is applied to claims with date of service on or after July 8, 2017.

When an abnormality is encountered or a pre-existing problem is addressed during the Preventive visit, and significant elements of related Evaluation and Management (E/M) services are provided during the same visit Blue Shield of California will reimburse the Preventive Medicine service plus 50% of the Problem-Oriented E/M service code (when that code is appropriately appended with modifier 25). If the Problem-Oriented service is minor, or if the code is not submitted with modifier 25 appended, it will not be reimbursed.

This policy context applies to the following codes:

- Problem Oriented E&M Services: 99202-99215
- Preventive E&M Services: 99381-99397, G0101, G0102, G0402, G0438, G0439, S0610, S0612, S0613

Rationale

The 50% reduction is applied because the practice expense component is duplicated within each E/M.

Reimbursement Guideline

Blue Shield of California will reference national or regional industry standards, such as Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) and MUE (Medically Unlikely Edits) rules, and American Medical Association's (AMA) CPT guidelines, as coding standards and as guidance for payment policy. In claims payment scenarios where CMS and/or CPT reference is lacking or insufficient, the Payment Policy Committee (PPC) may develop customized payment policies that are based on other accepted or analogous industry payment standards and or expert input.

Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Medical Association http://www.ama-assn.org/ • Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services https://www.cms.gov/

Policy History

This section provides a chronological history of the activities, updates and changes that have occurred with this Payment Policy.

Effective Date	Action	Reason
07/08/2017	New Policy Adoption	Payment Policy committee
01/01/2021	Updated E&M Range 99201-99215 to 99202-99215	Payment Policy Maintenance

The materials provided to you are guidelines used by this plan to authorize, modify, or deny care for persons with similar illness or conditions. Specific care and treatment may vary depending on individual need and the benefits covered under your contract. These Policies are subject to change as new information becomes available.