

Private Property of Florida Blue.

This payment policy is Copyright 2012, Florida Blue. All Rights Reserved. You may not copy or use this document or disclose its contents without the express written permission of Florida Blue. The medical codes referenced in this document may be proprietary and owned by others. Florida Blue makes no claim of ownership of such codes. Our use of such codes in this document is for explanation and guidance and should not be construed as a license for their use by you. Before utilizing the codes, please be sure that to the extent required, you have secured any appropriate licenses for such use. Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) is copyright 2012 American Medical Association. All Rights Reserved. No fee schedules, basic units, relative values, or related listings are included in CPT. The AMA assumes no liability for the data contained herein. Applicable FARS/DFARS restrictions apply to government use. CPT® is a trademark of the American Medical Association.

PAYMENT POLICY ID NUMBER: 10-006

Original Effective Date: 01/26/10

Revised: 08/21/12

National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) Edits

THIS PAYMENT POLICY IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION, CERTIFICATION, EXPLANATION OF BENEFITS, OR A GUARANTEE OF PAYMENT, NOR DOES IT SUBSTITUTE FOR OR CONSTITUTE MEDICAL ADVICE. ALL MEDICAL DECISIONS ARE SOLELY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PATIENT AND PHYSICIAN. BENEFITS ARE DETERMINED BY THE GROUP CONTRACT, MEMBER BENEFIT BOOKLET, AND/OR INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIBER CERTIFICATE IN EFFECT AT THE TIME SERVICES WERE RENDERED. THIS PAYMENT POLICY APPLIES TO ALL LINES OF BUSINESS AND PROVIDERS OF SERVICE. IT DOES NOT ADDRESS ALL POTENTIAL ISSUES RELATED TO PAYMENT FOR SERVICES PROVIDED TO FLORIDA BLUE MEMBERS AS LEGISLATIVE MANDATES, PROVIDER CONTRACT DOCUMENTS OR THE MEMBER'S BENEFIT COVERAGE MAY SUPERSEDE THIS POLICY.

DESCRIPTION:

Effective October 23, 2008, all Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) edits will be incorporated into Florida Blue's code editing system.

CMS developed the NCCI to promote national correct coding methodologies and to control improper coding leading to inappropriate payment for Medicare Part B claims. CMS developed its coding policies based on coding conventions defined in the American Medical Association's CPT manual, national and local policies and edits, coding guidelines developed by national societies, analysis of standard medical and surgical practices, and a review of current coding practices. CMS NCCI edits are a recognized industry source for relationships between codes.

REIMBURSEMENT INFORMATION:

There are two NCCI edit tables: "Column One/Column Two Correct Coding Edit Table" and "Mutually Exclusive Edit Table." Each edit table contains edits, which are pairs of HCPCS/CPT codes that in general should not be reported together. Each edit has a Column One and Column Two HCPCS/CPT code. If a provider reports the two codes of an edit pair, the Column Two code is denied, and the Column One code is eligible for payment.

Florida Blue will use the "Column One/Column Two" NCCI edits to determine whether CPT and/or HCPCS codes reported together by the same physician for the same member on the same date of service are eligible for separate reimbursement.

Each NCCI edit has a modifier indicator assigned to it. A modifier indicator of “0” indicates a modifier cannot be used to bypass the edit. A modifier indicator of “1” indicates that a properly coded modifier -59 can be used to allow submitted services or procedures. Florida Blue will not reimburse Column Two codes separately unless the codes are correctly reported with one of the recognized NCCI-designated modifiers.

Many procedure codes cannot be reported together because they are mutually exclusive of each other. Mutually exclusive procedures cannot reasonably be performed at the same anatomic site or same patient encounter. Pairs of HCPCS/CPT codes that are mutually exclusive of one another are identified as code pair edits in the NCCI Mutually Exclusive edit table. Many edits in the Mutually Exclusive edit table allow the use of NCCI-associated modifiers.

More information on these edits can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalCorrectCodInitEd>.

Florida Blue will not separately reimburse certain CPT/HCPCS codes identified by CMS’ National Physician Fee Schedule (NPFS) Relative Value File with a designated status of “B”, indicating a bundled procedure.

Codes with the status of “B” on the NPFS are considered bundled with all other procedure codes.

REFERENCES:

1. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, “National Correct Coding Initiative Edits,” <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalCorrectCodInitEd>.
2. American Medical Association, Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®), Professional Edition.

COMMITTEE APPROVAL:

This Payment Policy was approved by the Florida Blue Payment Policy Committee on 01/26/10.

GUIDELINE UPDATE INFORMATION:

01/26/10	New Payment Policy
08/21/12	Revised – Changed name from BCBSF to Florida Blue

Private Property of Florida Blue.

This payment policy is Copyright 2012, Florida Blue. All Rights Reserved. You may not copy or use this document or disclose its contents without the express written permission of Florida Blue. The medical codes referenced in this document may be proprietary and owned by others. Florida Blue makes no claim of ownership of such codes. Our use of such codes in this document is for explanation and guidance and should not be construed as a license for their use by you. Before utilizing the codes, please be sure that to the extent required, you have secured any appropriate licenses for such use. Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) is copyright 2012 (American Medical Association. All Rights Reserved. No fee schedules, basic units, relative values, or related listings are included in CPT. The

AMA assumes no liability for the data contained herein. Applicable FARS/DFARS restrictions apply to government use. CPT® is a trademark of the American Medical Association.