PAYMENT POLICY ID NUMBER: 10-010

Original Effective Date: 12/22/09

Revised: 05/31/12

Moderate Sedation

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DESCRIPTION:

Moderate (conscious) sedation, also known as conscious sedation, is defined as a drug induced depression of consciousness during which patients respond purposefully to verbal commands, either alone or accompanied by light tactile stimulation. No interventions are required to maintain a patent airway, and spontaneous ventilation is adequate. Cardiovascular function is usually maintained.

Moderate sedation does not include minimal sedation (anxiolysis), deep sedation or monitored anesthesia care (00100-01999).

REIMBURSEMENT INFORMATION:

Attending Physician (99143-99145)

Codes 99143 to 99145 describe moderate sedation provided by the same physician performing the diagnostic or therapeutic service that the sedation supports, requiring the presence of an independent trained observer to assist in the monitoring of the patient’s level of consciousness and physiological status.

Appendix G of the CPT codebook, Summary of CPT Codes That Include Moderate (Conscious) Sedation, lists those procedures for which conscious sedation is an inherent part of the procedure itself. CPT describes the interrelationship between the appendix and the conscious sedation codes.

Florida Blue/Health Options will separately allow codes 99143 to 99145 as long as the procedure with which it is billed is not listed in Appendix G of CPT.

Florida Blue/Health Options follows the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) edits imposed for codes 99143 to 99145 if billed with any procedure in Appendix G of the CPT; therefore, codes 99143 to 99145 will not be separately reimbursed when billed with radiation therapy services.

Furthermore, codes 99143 to 99145 will not be separately reimbursed with any procedure whose...
description contains "with anesthesia", "under anesthesia", "under or requiring general anesthesia", etc. based on their verbiage and the fact that conscious sedation is not expected with these procedures.

**Second Physician (99148-99150)**

Codes 99148 to 99150 describe moderate sedation provided by a physician other than the health care professional performing the diagnostic or therapeutic service that the sedation supports. In the unusual event when a second physician other than the health care professional performing the diagnostic or therapeutic services provides moderate sedation in the facility setting for the procedures listed in Appendix G, the second physician can bill 99148 to 99150; however, when these services are performed by the second physician in the non-facility setting, codes 99148 to 99150 are not to be reported.

**BILLING/CODING INFORMATION:**

The following codes may be used to describe moderate sedation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CPT Coding</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>99143</td>
<td>Moderate sedation service (other than those services described by codes 00100-01999) provided by the same physician performing the diagnostic or therapeutic service that the sedation supports, requiring the presence of an independent trained observer to assist in the monitoring of the patients level of consciousness and physiological status; under 5 years of age, first 30 minutes intra-service time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99144</td>
<td>Moderate sedation services (other than those services described by codes 00100-01999) provided by the same physician performing the diagnostic or therapeutic service that the sedation supports, requiring the presence of an independent trained observer to assist in the monitoring of the patients level of consciousness and physiological status; age 5 years or older, first 30 minutes intra-service time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99145</td>
<td>Moderate sedation services (other than those services described by codes 00100-01999) provided by the same physician performing the diagnostic or therapeutic service that the sedation supports, requiring the presence of an independent trained observer to assist in the monitoring of the patients level of consciousness and physiological status; each additional 15 minutes intra-service time (List separately in addition to code for primary service)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99148</td>
<td>Moderate sedation services (other than those services described by codes 00100-01999) provided by a physician other than the health care professional performing the diagnostic or therapeutic service that the sedation supports; younger than 5 years of age, first 30 minutes intra-service time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99149</td>
<td>Moderate sedation services (other than those services described by codes 00100-01999) provided by a physician other than the health care professional performing the diagnostic or therapeutic service that the sedation supports; age 5 years or older, first 30 minutes intra-service time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99150</td>
<td>Moderate sedation services (other than those services described by codes 00100-01999) provided by a physician other than the health care professional performing the diagnostic or therapeutic service that the sedation supports; each additional 15 minutes intra-service time (List separately in addition to code for primary service)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DEFINITIONS:**

**General anesthesia:** a drug-induced loss of consciousness during which patients are not arousable, even by painful stimulation. The ability to independently maintain ventilatory function is
often impaired. Patients often require assistance in maintaining a patient airway and positive pressure ventilation may be required because of depressed spontaneous ventilation or drug-induced depression of neuromuscular function. Cardiovascular function may be impaired.

**Sedation:** the act of calming, especially by the administration of a sedative (i.e., a drug that quiets nervous excitement).

**Moderate Sedation:** a drug induced depression of consciousness during which patients respond purposefully to verbal commands, either alone or accompanied by light tactile stimulation. No interventions are required to maintain a patent airway, and spontaneous ventilation is adequate. Cardiovascular function is usually maintained.

**Same Individual Physician or Other Health Care Professional:** the same individual rendering health care services reporting the same Federal Tax Identification number.

**RELATED MEDICAL COVERAGE GUIDELINES OR PAYMENT POLICIES:**

1. MCG 07-00007-14: Moderate Sedation Administered by Non-Anesthesiologist
2. Payment Policy P-0000001: Anesthesia Services

**REFERENCES:**

1. Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
2. CMS National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI)

**COMMITTEE APPROVAL:**

This Payment Policy was approved by the Florida Blue Payment Policy Committee on 12/22/09.

**GUIDELINE UPDATE INFORMATION:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/22/09</td>
<td>New Payment Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/31/12</td>
<td>Revised – Changed name from BCBSF to Florida Blue</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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