



Nonphysician Health Care Professionals Billing Evaluation and Management Codes Policy – Acupuncturist Update

Acupuncturists were not included in the policy revision that occurred in December 2016, which stated that UnitedHealthcare Community Plan would begin denying reimbursement of Evaluation and Management (E/M) CPT codes 99201-99499 for several additional specialties. The denial of E/M code reimbursement was limited to the following additional nonphysician healthcare professionals:

- Optician
- Surgical technician
- Doctor of Naprapathy
- Massage therapist

Since acupuncturists were not included in the policy revision that occurred in December 2016, E/M codes billed by acupuncturists have not been and will not be denied under the Nonphysician Health Care Professionals Billing Evaluation and Management Codes Policy.

CPT guidance instructs that E/M codes 99201-99499 may be reported by physicians or other qualified health care professionals. The Nonphysician Health Care Professionals Billing Evaluation and Management Codes Policy allows separate reimbursement of E/M codes accordingly. The specific professionals who do not render and report E/M services may consider reviewing the CPT and Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) national code sets to select a more accurate code that describes the services they provide.