

**Corporate Payment Policy 32**  
**Claims Editing**  
**CLAIMSXTEN-SELECT™ and Cotiviti, Inc., Edits**  
Approved September 22, 2022

**Origination:** January 2021

**Last Review Date:**

**Next Review:** December 2023 (or as needed)

**Effective Date of Most Recent Updates:** December 9, 2022

### Document Precedence

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont (Blue Cross VT) Payment Policy Manual was developed to provide guidance for providers regarding Blue Cross VT payment practices and facilitates the systematic application of Blue Cross VT member contracts and employer benefit documents, provider contracts, Blue Cross VT corporate medical policies, and Plan's claim editing logic. Document precedence is as follows:

- 1) To the extent that there may be any conflict between the Blue Cross VT Payment Policy Manual and the member contracts or employer benefit documents, the member contract or employer benefit document language takes precedence.
- 2) To the extent that there may be any conflict between the Blue Cross VT Payment Policy Manual and provider contract language, the provider contract language takes precedence.
- 3) To the extent that there may be any conflict between the Blue Cross VT Payment Policy Manual and corporate medical policy, the corporate medical policy takes precedence.
- 4) To the extent that there may be any conflict between the Blue Cross VT Payment Policy Manual and the Plan's claim editing solutions, the Plan's claim editing solutions takes precedence.

### Overview

Blue Cross VT utilizes ClaimsXten-Select™ and, effective December 9, 2022, Cotiviti, Inc., as its clinical claims editing software to facilitate accurate claim processing for claims for services provided to members of Blue Cross VT commercial health plans. This policy provides an overview of the system as well as a description of the edits.

Our claim editing logic (ClaimsXten-Select™ or Cotiviti, Inc.), is based on a thorough review by doctors of current clinical practices, specialty society guidance, and industry standard coding, and the logic incorporates guidelines from industry-standard and essential clinical sources that include, but are not limited to: Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) as documented by the American Medical Association (AMA), Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS), Internal Classification of Diseases Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM), American Medical Association (AMA), and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) guidelines (such as, but not limited to National Correct Coding Initiatives and Post-Operative Period Guidelines),

specialty society guidelines, medical policy and literature research and standards, and input from academic affiliations.

As used in this policy, an “edit” refers to the practice by which one or more rule recommendations are made to CPT® or HCPCS Level II codes included in a claim that result in: (1) reimbursement being made based on some, but not all, of the CPT®/HCPCS codes included in the claim, (2) reimbursement being made based on different CPT®/HCPCS codes than those included in the claim, (3) reimbursement for one or more of the CPT®/HCPCS codes included in the claim being decreased by application of multiple procedure logic, and (4) reimbursement for one or more of the CPT®/HCPCS codes being denied, or any combination of the above. Where an appropriate replacement procedure code or quantity exists, an edit may also involve denial of the incorrect procedure code or quantity and addition of a new claim line with the appropriate procedure code or quantity for processing.

ClaimsXten-Select™ and Cotiviti, Inc., also perform history editing, which involves identifying previously submitted claims within our claims processing system that may be related to new claim submissions, and it may also result in adjustments to previously processed claims. Additionally, within the context of this policy, Cotiviti, Inc., will have the ability to perform Coding Validation (CV) when during the editing process it detects consistent use of modifiers to bypass certain edits. Cotiviti Inc., will flag claims using recognized modifiers and will validate coding appropriateness returning a recommendation to allow or deny a current or history claim.

Claim lines first process against ClaimsXten-Select™ edits. If a ClaimsXten-Select™ edit applies, no further edits are applied. If a claim line does not process against a ClaimsXten-Select™ edit, it is then processed against applicable Cotiviti edits.

Blue Cross VT uses ClaimsXten-Select™ and Cotiviti, Inc., to administer some of our payment, medical, and administrative policies, as well as some provisions of our benefit plans.

Blue Cross VT’s code edit disclosure tool for ClaimsXten-Select™, Clear Claim Connection™ is available on the secure provider portal. This tool allows users to enter coding scenarios and immediately view the audit results. Clinical edit rationales, as well as edit sourcing, are provided for any coding scenario for which Clear Claim Connection™ shows a claim would be disallowed. Please note, however, that this tool does not tie into claim history or Cotiviti, Inc edits, so results are subject to change.

At this time, there is not a real-time Cotiviti, Inc., disclosure tool. This payment policy should be used as a reference source.

Code edits and National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) edits are applied to new CPT® and HCPCS codes which are introduced four times per year in January, April, July, and October. Updates to coding guidelines and NCCI edits will be applied quarterly for ClaimsXten-Select™ and Cotiviti.

## Edits

The following pages after the approval signatures includes an index of claim edits and immediately following, a description of each edit.

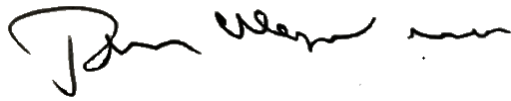
## Policy Implementation/Update Information

This policy was originally established in 2021.

The policy was updated effective December 9, 2022, to add (1) Document Precedence details (2) Cotiviti, Inc., information to the Overview (3) Cotiviti, Inc., claim edits as noted in the effective date field of each edit and (4) removed three ClaimsXten-Select™ Anesthesia claim edits; Anesthesia Multiple Crosswalk, Anesthesia Not Eligible to Bill and Anesthesia Standard Crosswalk as they were implemented and retracted retroactively to January 1, 2021.

**Approved by**

**Date Approved: 9/22/22**



---

Tom Weigel, MD, Chief Medical Officer



---

Dawn Schneiderman, Vice President, Chief Operating Officer

## Contents

<b>Code Edit:</b> Add-On Code.....	6
<b>Code Edit:</b> Age Code Replacement.....	6
<b>Code Edit:</b> Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC).....	6
<b>Code Edit:</b> Anatomical Modifiers.....	7
<b>Code Edit:</b> Anesthesia.....	7
<b>Code Edit:</b> Assistant Surgeon.....	9
<b>Code Edit:</b> Assistant Surgeon Modifiers.....	9
<b>Code Edit:</b> Bilateral Procedures.....	9
<b>Code Edit:</b> Bundled Services (ClaimsXten-Select™).....	10
<b>Code Edit:</b> Bundled Services (Cotiviti, Inc.).....	11
<b>Code Edit:</b> Bundled Facility Services.....	11
<b>Code Edit:</b> CMS Correct Coding Initiative.....	12
<b>Code Edit:</b> CMS Unbundling.....	12
<b>Code Edit:</b> Consultations Outpatient.....	13
<b>Code Edit:</b> Co-Surgeon.....	13
<b>Code Edit:</b> Continuous Positive Airway Pressure or Bilevel Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP/BIPAP) Frequency.....	14
<b>Code Edit:</b> Deleted HCPCS Code.....	14
<b>Code Edit:</b> Device and Supply – Blood.....	14
<b>Code Edit:</b> Device and Supply – Diagnostic and Therapeutic.....	15
<b>Code Edit:</b> Device and Supply – Drugs.....	15
<b>Code Edit:</b> Diabetic Supply Frequency.....	16
<b>Code Edit:</b> Diagnosis-Age Consistency.....	16
<b>Code Edit:</b> Diagnosis Code Guideline.....	17
<b>Code Edit:</b> Diagnosis Procedure.....	17
<b>Code Edit:</b> Diagnosis Validity.....	19
<b>Code Edit:</b> Duplicate Services.....	19
<b>Code Edit:</b> Frequency - Other Services.....	20
<b>Code Edit:</b> Frequency- Preventive Services.....	20
<b>Code Edit:</b> Global Comp.....	21
<b>Code Edit:</b> Global Surgery.....	21
<b>Code Edit:</b> Implant Procedures Requires Implant Device.....	22
<b>Code Edit:</b> Inpatient Only Services.....	22
<b>Code Edit:</b> Laboratory Services Billed by Physicians.....	23

<b>Code Edit:</b> Lifetime Event .....	23
<b>Code Edit:</b> Maximum Units .....	24
<b>Code Edit:</b> Medicare Medically Unlikely Edits (MUE) Durable Medical Equipment (DME) .....	25
<b>Code Edit:</b> Medicare Medically Unlikely Edits (MUE) Outpatient Hospital DOS.....	25
<b>Code Edit:</b> Medicare Medically Unlikely Edits (MUE) Practitioner Date of Service.....	26
<b>Code Edit:</b> Missing Professional Component Modifier -26.....	27
<b>Code Edit:</b> Modifier to Procedure Validation Payment Modifiers .....	27
<b>Code Edit:</b> Multiple Code Re-Bundling .....	27
<b>Code Edit:</b> Multiple Evaluation and Management Services on the Same Day .....	28
<b>Code Edit:</b> National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) .....	28
<b>Code Edit:</b> National Correct Coding Manual.....	29
Code Edit: New Patient Code for Established Patients .....	29
<b>Code Edit:</b> Obstetrics Package.....	29
<b>Code Edit:</b> Outpatient Code Editor CMS CCI Bundling.....	30
<b>Code Edit:</b> Pay Percent Assistant Surgery .....	30
<b>Code Edit:</b> Pay Percent for Single Lines with Payment Modifiers or Multiple Quantity .....	30
<b>Code Edit:</b> Pay Percent Modifier -51.....	31
<b>Code Edit:</b> Pay Percent Multiple Radiology.....	31
<b>Code Edit:</b> Pay Percent Therapy Facility .....	31
<b>Code Edit:</b> Physician Fee Schedule Non-Facility N/A Indicator .....	32
<b>Code Edit:</b> Post-Operative Visit.....	32
<b>Code Edit:</b> Pre-Admission Outpatient Services Inclusive to an Admission .....	32
Code Edit: Pre-Operative Visit .....	32
<b>Code Edit:</b> Procedure Age.....	33
<b>Code Edit:</b> Procedure Code Definition.....	33
<b>Code Edit:</b> Procedure Code Guideline.....	34
<b>Code Edit:</b> Professional, Technical, and Global Services.....	35
<b>Code Edit:</b> Professional Component of Radiology Services in Facility Places of Service .....	35
<b>Code Edit:</b> Same Day Visit.....	36
<b>Code Edit:</b> Separate Procedures.....	36
<b>Code Edit:</b> Team Surgery .....	36
<b>Code Edit:</b> Therapy and Assistant Therapy Modifier.....	37

**Code Edit:** Add-On Code

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional Claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** ADA Dental Services Manual, AMA CPT® Changes – an Insider’s View; AMA CPT® Manual, CMS, HCPCS Level II Manual

**Definition:** Add-on codes are always performed in addition to a primary procedure and should never be reported as stand-alone service. Add-on codes reported as stand-alone procedures are denied.

If a primary procedure is denied due to Coding Validation (CV), then the add-on code is also denied whether submitted on the same or different claim.

Add-on codes are exempt from multiple procedure reduction and therefore should not be billed with a modifier-51. If billed with a modifier -51, claims are denied.

**Code Edit:** Age Code Replacement

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2021

**Application:** ClaimsXten-Select™

**Claim Type:** Professional Claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** AMA, CMS

**Definition:** Identifies claim lines containing procedure codes that are inconsistent with the member’s age for which an alternative code is more appropriate for the age.

When an age inconsistency is identified on a claim, the code(s) in question are denied.

Where an appropriate replacement procedure code exists, the inappropriate procedure code is denied and a new claim line with the appropriate procedure code may be added to the claim and processed accordingly.

**Code Edit:** Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC)

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Ambulatory Surgical Claims

**Source:** CMS, Provider Contract

**Definition:** An ASC is a distinct entity that operates exclusively to furnish same-day surgical care to patients who do not require hospitalization. This edit addresses procedures that are not listed on the ASC approved procedure list for claims submitted with an ASC bill type (083x) and Place of Service 24.

This edit identifies procedures and ancillary services that are covered or not covered when performed in an ASC.

**Code Edit:** Anatomical Modifiers

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional claims, CMS 1500 and Outpatient Facility Clams Submitted on a UB-04

**Source:** CMS

**Definition:** According to the AMA CPT® Manual, the anatomic-specific modifiers designate the area or part of the body on which the procedure is performed.

Anatomical Modifier	Description
-E1, -E2, -E3, -E4	Eye Lids
-FA through -F9	Fingers
-TA through -T9	Toes
-LC	Left circumflex, coronary artery
-LD	Left anterior descending coronary artery
-LM	Left main coronary artery
-RC	Right coronary artery
-RI	Ramus intermedius
-LT	Left side
-RT	Right side
-50	Bilateral

When an anatomical modifier is not appended or when the procedure code does not match the anatomical site services are denied.

**Code Edit:** Anesthesia

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional Claims, CMS 1500 and Outpatient Facility Clams submitted on a UB-04

**Source:** CMS Correct Coding Initiative (CCI), HCPCS Level II Manual, ASA Relative Value Guide, American Society of Anesthesiologists

**Definition:** Multiple General Anesthesia Services on the same Day:

Only one anesthesia code should be reported for a single date of service unless the second anesthesia code is an add-on code or has an appropriate modifier attached. When multiple general anesthesia services are performed on the same day, only the procedure with the highest base value should be reported, plus the time for all anesthesia services combined. Therefore, when multiple general anesthesia services (00100 through 01999) are billed for the same day, the highest submitted charge amount is paid, and the secondary anesthesia services are denied.

Additionally, when multiple Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA) services (00100 through 01999) identified by modifiers -QX (CRNA services with medical direction by a physician) or -QZ (CRNA services without medical direction by a physician) are submitted, the highest submitted charge is paid, and the secondary services are denied.

The following anesthesia services are excluded:

- 01953 (Anesthesia, burn, each additional 9 percent)
- 01968 (Anesthesia cesarean delivery add-on)
- 01969 (Anesthesia cesarean hysterectomy add-on)
- 01996 (Hospital Management Continuous Drug Administration and IV PCA)

Procedures containing a modifier that indicates separate and distinct services are allowed separately.

Anesthesia Policy Edits also audit the following scenarios for coding appropriateness

- Out of Sequence for Multiple General Anesthesia Services on the Same Day (Bundled Edits)
- Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA). Services billed without the appropriate CRNA modifier (-QX, or -QZ) are denied
- Medical Supervision and Medical Direction of Anesthesia Services. (Example: Anesthesiologist's claim without medical supervision/direction modifiers is denied if a CRNA claim with medical direction exists. CRNA claim billed without medical direction is denied if an anesthesiologist's claim with a medical direction or medical supervision modifier exists)
- Daily Management of epidurals or subarachnoid continuous drug administration (01996) is edited when billed with anesthesia qualifying circumstance codes (99100 through 99140) and billed without an anesthesia procedure code (00100 through 01992). Physical status modifier codes are also edited in these circumstances (-P1, -P2, -P3, -P4, -P5 and -P6)
- Anesthesia services billed without the appropriate anesthesia modifiers
- Anesthesia services when billed with multiple anesthesia modifiers on the same claim line. Mutually exclusive edits.
- Anesthesia for gastrointestinal endoscopic procedures and monitored anesthesia services (see our Corporate Medical Policy for Monitored Anesthesia Care (MAC) during Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, Bronchoscopy, or Interventional Pain Procedures in Outpatient Settings for additional information and Prior Approval requirements)
- Anesthesia for pain management injections
- Anesthesia for vaginal or cesarian delivery (01961, 01968 or 01969) when anesthesia for cesarian delivery has been billed in the past 240-day period.

Exception: Anesthesia for a subsequent vaginal delivery or cesarean delivery reported within an 8-month period following anesthesia reported for a cesarean delivery and modifier -52 or -53 is appended to the service.

- Reimburse modifiers -AD, -QK, -QX and -QY reimbursed at 50% of the fee schedule payment (See Provider Handbook for additional information)



**Code Edit:** Assistant Surgeon

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional Claims, CMS 1500 and Outpatient Facility Claims submitted on a UB-04

**Source:** CMS, AMA CPT® Manual, American College of Surgeons

**Definition:** Applies to assistant surgeons whether physicians or non-physicians.

This edit applies to the following scenarios but not limited to:

- Procedures where typically assistant surgeons are not allowed
- CPT® 59510 (global obstetrical care, cesarian delivery) is denied when billed with an assistant surgeon modifier
- CPT® 59618 (global obstetrical care, cesarean delivery, following failed VBAC) is denied when billed with an assistant surgeon modifier
- CPT® 59622 (cesarean delivery only, following failed VBAC, including postpartum care) is denied when billed with an assistant surgeon modifier
- Non-physician claims billed with modifiers -80, -81 or -82 are denied
- Reimburse modifiers -80, -81, -82 at 16% of the allowed amount (see Provider Handbook for additional information)
- Reimburse modifier AS at 14% of the allowed amount (see Provider Handbook for additional information)

**Code Edit:** Assistant Surgeon Modifiers

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2021

**Application:** ClaimsXten-Select™

**Claim Type:** Professional Claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** AMA/CMS/ACS

**Definition:** Identifies claim lines containing procedures billed with an assistant surgeon modifier (-80, -81, -82, -AS) that typically do not require an assistant surgeon. Claim line denials.

**Code Edit:** Bilateral Procedures

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional Claims, CMS 1500 and Outpatient Facility Claims submitted on a UB-04 and Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASC)

**Source:** AMA Principles of CPT® Coding, AMA CPT® Manual, CMS, and OCE Edits

**Definition:** Applies the current bilateral coding principals and guidelines as well as current claim processing logic for reimbursement of bilateral procedures reported with modifier -50 or -LT and -RT.

In addition to current bilateral logic this edit applies the five CMS classifications of bilateral procedures and process claims accordingly.

The five CMS classifications of bilateral procedures are as noted below:

- Procedures that are not payable at 150% when billed bilaterally (Bilateral Indicator 0)
- Procedures that are payable at 150% when billed bilaterally (Bilateral Indicator 1)
- Procedures that are bilateral in nature (Bilateral Indicator 2)
- Procedures that are payable at 100% for each side (Bilateral Indicator 3)
- Procedures to which the bilateral concept does not apply (Bilateral Indicator 9)

#### Additionally

Claims billed with modifier -LT (left side) or -RT (right side) when billed on the same line with modifier -50 are denied as not necessary or appropriate for a provider to append modifiers -LT and/or -RT on the same line as modifier -50.

Claims billed with a bilateral in nature service and reported with -RT or -LT modifier are denied for inappropriate coding.

Planned bilateral procedures that have a reduced service (modifier -52) or are discontinued prior to administration of anesthesia (modifier -73) are not entitled to be reimbursed at 150% by CMS guidelines.

Services billed with both modifiers -50, -52 and -73 on the same line are denied.

Services billed on two lines, one with modifier -50 and one without modifier -50, with modifier -52 or -73 appended to either line, results in the denial of one of the lines.

These actions ensure that no more than 50% is reimbursed for the discontinued services.

If the service with modifier -52 or -73 is submitted after the service has been previously processed on a different claim without modifier -52 or -73 (**paid historical claim**), then the service with modifiers -52 or -73 are denied. This action prevents additional payment for a discontinued service if the services are billed out of sequence.

Additional source Please refer to Blue Cross VT's Corporate Payment Policy for Modifier -52 (CPP\_22) for reporting and reimbursement information along with Provider Handbook information.

#### **Code Edit:** Bundled Services (ClaimsXten-Select™)

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2021

**Application:** ClaimsXten-Select™

**Claim Type:** Professional Claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** CMS

**Definition:** Certain procedure codes are designated by CMS as “bundled” by a status code indicator of “B” on the CMS National Physician Fee Schedule Relative Value File. When billed with any other procedure code that is not indicated as a “bundled” service, these procedures are considered a component of, or incident to, the overall service provided, and separate reimbursement is not warranted.

**Code Edit:** Bundled Services (Cotiviti, Inc.)

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional Claims, CMS 1500, Outpatient and Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC)

**Source:** CMS

**Definition:** First reviews ClaimsXten-Select™ Bundled Services edits and additionally reviews status indicators of “N1” or “L1” for ASC facilities and determines not separately reimbursable items.

Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (CORF)/Outpatient Physical Therapy (OPT)

Supplies furnished CORFs or OPTs are considered part of the practice expense and are included in the calculation of the relative values under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS)

Exceptions: Q4001-Q4051 with Rev Code 0270 with bill type 0740-075Z

**Code Edit:** Bundled Facility Services

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional Claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** CMS

**Definition:** According to CMS policy\*, some procedures/services are considered bundled during an inpatient admission are not separately billable when the services are after the admission date and prior to the discharge date.

\* There are several services and supplies which CMS considers included in the facility payment when provided on either the date of an inpatient admission or during the three calendar days immediately preceding the date of inpatient admission by the same admitting hospital. These bundled services/supplies are termed packaged services in the facility setting and should not be billed separately.

- Preadmission Diagnostic Services- Diagnostic services provided by the admitting hospital within three days prior to and including the date of admission are inpatient services and are included in the inpatient payment.
- Nondiagnostic Services - All services, other than ambulance services (A0021-A0999 or S9960-S9961 or Revenue Codes 0540-0549), provided by the admitting hospital on the same date of an inpatient admission are considered related to the admission.
- Other Outpatient Services -Services provided by an outpatient hospital during an inpatient admission are not separately billable
- Home Health - Separate payment is not made for any services reported with Place of Service 12, or Bill Type 032X, or Bill Type 034X, while a member is confined to an inpatient hospital, skilled nursing facility, or swing bed hospital.

Additionally, the following services are considered bundled facility services during an inpatient admission and are not separately reimbursed when provided after the admission date and/or prior to the discharge date:

- Durable Medical Equipment (DME) items billed by a DME provider with DME Place of Service (POS) for a patient's use in an inpatient institution (Bill type 011X)
- Home Infusion/home therapy services
- Professional services billed by a DME supplier, physical therapy or speech-language pathologist when there exists an institutional claim for hospice care. Exception is made when modifiers GV (Attending physician not employed or paid under arrangement by the patient's hospice provider) or GW (Service not related to the hospice patient's terminal condition).
- Transportation and/or set up of portable x-ray equipment and personnel in home or nursing home (HCPCS R0070, R0075, or Q0092)

**Code Edit:** CMS Correct Coding Initiative

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2021

**Application:** ClaimsXten-Select™

**Claim Type:** Professional Claims, CMS 1500 and Outpatient Facility Claims submitted on a UB-04

**Source:** CMS

**Definition:** Identifies claims containing code pairs found to be unbundled according to the CMS NCCI. The CMS NCCI coding policies are based on coding conventions defined in the CPT® manual, national and local Medicare policies and edits, coding guidelines developed by national societies, standard medical and surgical practice and/or current coding practice.

This rule recommends the denial of claim lines for which the submitted procedure is not recommended for reimbursement when submitted with another procedure as defined by a code pair found in the NCCI. Both codes must have same provider ID, same member, and same date of service.

NCCI code pair edits may be reviewed online at [www.cms.gov](http://www.cms.gov).

**Code Edit:** CMS Unbundling

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2021

**Application:** ClaimsXten-Select™

**Claim Type:** Professional Claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** CMS

**Definition:** Identifies claim lines containing procedure codes typically not recommended for reimbursement when submitted with other procedure codes on the same date of service for the same member.

Identifies code pairs that are created based on coding standards such as to procedure codes not reasonably performed on the same date of service or procedure codes that are a component of another procedure code.

This rule recommends the denial of claim lines where the submitted procedure is not recommended for reimbursement when submitted with one of the following: a more comprehensive procedure, a procedure that results in overlap of services, or procedures that are medically impossible or improbable to be performed together on the same date of service.

There are three sub-rules within the CMS\_UNBUN\_PAIRS rule, each with its own specific clinical justification. Each sub-rule is identified using the following acronyms:

ULT\_PARENT: Ultimate Parent

ME: Mutually Exclusive

INC: Incidental

**Code Edit: Consultations Outpatient**

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2021

**Application:** ClaimsXten-Select™

**Claim Type:** Professional Claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** CMS

**Definition:** This rule recommends the denial of claim lines containing an outpatient consultation when another outpatient consultation was billed for the same member by the same Provider ID with at least one matching diagnosis within a 6-month period.

Outpatient Consultation Code	Established Patient
99241	99212
99242	99213
99243	99214
99244	99215
99245	Left Blank
Telehealth Consultation Critical Care-Initial	Telehealth Consultation Critical Care-Subsequent
G0508	G0509

The rule adds the claim line with the appropriate level of office visit, established patient.

**Code Edit: Co-Surgeon**

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional Claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** CMS

**Definition:** Denies claim lines submitted with modifier -62 (co-surgeon) when the procedure code typically does not require co-surgeons as determined by the sources in this document.

Reimburse modifier -62 at 62.5% of the allowed amount

Please Refer to Provider Handbook for additional Modifiers information

**Code Edit:** Continuous Positive Airway Pressure or Bilevel Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP/BIPAP) Frequency

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2021

**Application:** ClaimsXten-Select™

**Claim Type:** Professional Claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** CMS

**Definition:** Identifies supply codes associated with CPAP/BIPAP therapy that are being submitted at a rate that exceeds our standard allowance.

Many CPAP/BIPAP supplies associated with sleep therapy are designed to be disposable. Masks, tubing, filters, and headgear are not designed to last extreme amounts of time. Based on the recommended replacement schedule for CPAP/BIPAP supplies from Medicare, this rule fires when the current claim for the submission of an associated CPAP/BIPAP supply is being submitted at a rate that exceeds the recommended replacement schedule.

The history line and the current line quantities are summed for the same date of service and provider. If the total quantity exceeds the recommended replacement rate, only the incorrect line is denied (all current lines are not denied). A new line may be added with the allowed quantity and processed accordingly.

Please Refer to the Corporate Payment Policy 33 Frequency of Supplies (Diabetic and CPAP/BIPAP) for additional information.

**Code Edit:** Deleted HCPCS Code

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** AMA CPT® Manual

**Definition:** Denies claim lines with a HCPCS code that the AMA has deleted and is no longer in effect. The provider needs to resubmit the claim as a corrected claim with the correct current HCPCS code.

**Code Edit:** Device and Supply – Blood

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** CMS, OCE Edits

**Definition:** Transfusion services are expected to be accompanied by blood products. Transfusion services billed without blood products are denied.

Applicable bill types are:

- 0120 through 012Z
- 0130 through 013Z

- 0140 through 014Z

Codes 86890 through 86891 are used when autologous blood products are collected and stored but not transfused.

Providers should be certain that the blood is not transfused on the same day it is collected. If so, the collection and storage charge is denied.

If a blood product transfusion is billed with a blood administration charge, and an autologous blood collection and storage charge has already been paid for the same date of service, then the blood product is denied.

**Code Edit:** Device and Supply – Diagnostic and Therapeutic

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** CMS

**Definition:** Certain imaging agents are applicable to only specific diagnostic or therapeutic imaging services. When imaging agents are billed alone or are billed with imaging services that are not consistent with their use, the imaging agent is denied.

Brachytherapy

Brachytherapy source C2616 are denied when billed without one of the following:

- 37243
- 77750
- 77790
- 79445
- S2095

**Code Edit:** Device and Supply – Drugs

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Outpatient Facility Claim Submitted on a UB-04

**Source:** OCE Edits

**Definition:** According to CMS policy and based on I/OCE specifications, claims containing drug and biological codes with pass through status or non-pass-through status must be reported with a payable procedure, or the drug and biological code is denied.

Radiopharmaceuticals further require that the payable procedure be reported on the same claim, while the remaining drug and biologicals are edited for the same date of service.

**Code Edit:** Diabetic Supply Frequency

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2021

**Application:** ClaimsXten-Select™

**Claim Type:** Professional Claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** CMS

**Definition:** Identifies claim lines submitted with diabetic supply codes when the utilization of these supplies is at a frequency over the usage defined by over the usage by CMS, industry standard or other health plan policies. This rule distinguishes the quantity of supplies necessary for those patients that are insulin dependent and those that are non-insulin dependent. The rule also provides an option to perform a diagnosis validation check on the claim containing the supply code as ICD-10-CM diagnosis code(s) describing the condition that necessitates glucose testing must be included on each claim for the supplies. The default rule checks both claim and line level diagnosis.

This rule allows for a grace period to be applied to eligible claim lines submitted with diabetic supply codes. For example, if a diabetic supply code has a limitation of 1 every 90 days and a refill is shipped on the 91st day, i.e., the end date of the current supply usage, delivery time needs to be considered. Applying the grace period ensures there is no gap due to delivery time. (Medicare also allows the grace period for this reason.)

The history line and the current line quantities are summed for the same date of service and provider. If the total quantity exceeds the recommended usage rate, only the incorrect line is denied (all current lines are not denied). A new line may be added with the allowed quantity and processed accordingly.

Please Refer to the Corporate Payment Policy 33 Frequency of Supplies (Diabetic and CPAP/BIPAP) for additional information.

**Code Edit:** Diagnosis-Age Consistency

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** ICD-10-CM

**Definition:** Certain diagnosis codes have been identified as being specific to certain age groups. When one of these diagnoses is billed, it is the only diagnosis on a claim, and it does not match the age of the patient on the claim for that date of service, then all services on the claim is denied. This edit looks at all diagnoses on a claim.



**Code Edit:** **Diagnosis Code Guideline**

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional claims, CMS 1500 and Outpatient Facility Claim Submitted on a UB-04

**Source:** CMS

**Definition:** Identifies when diagnosis codes were not submitted in accordance with ICD-10-CM coding guidelines and CMS policies.

ICD-10-CM coding guidelines provides a step-by-step tutorial and full official conventions and guidelines regulating the appropriate assignment and reporting of ICD-10-CM codes. As such we expect providers bill with the highest level of accuracy and compliance with official coding sources and guidelines. The Diagnosis Code Guideline Policy identifies scenarios within ICD-10-CM where a diagnosis code submitted for a procedure or service is reported inappropriately or in an inaccurate position on a Professional and/or Facility claim line(s). Examples of ICD-10-CM coding guidelines edit will help identify:

Primary or Principal Diagnosis or the ONLY diagnosis:

The following groups of diagnosis codes are not allowed to be reported as the ONLY diagnosis on the claim or claim line, the principal or primary diagnosis on a professional claim:

- Diagnosis of external causes
- Manifestation codes
- Secondary diagnosis codes
- ICD-10-CM Sequela (7<sup>th</sup> character "S") codes
- Principal or primary diagnosis for chemotherapy administration. Specified chemotherapy administration procedure codes are required to have Z51.11 and Z51.12 as the primary or principal diagnosis. In addition, ICD-10-CM guidelines state when a patient's encounter is solely to receive chemotherapy for the treatment of neoplasm, two diagnosis codes are required
- Factors Influencing Health Status and Contact with Health Services Diagnoses and Non-Routine Examinations
- Health services for specific procedures and treatment- not carried out
- ICD-10-CM excludes 1 Notes
- ICD-10-CM Laterality

**Code Edit:** **Diagnosis Procedure**

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional claims, CMS 1500 and Outpatient Facility Claim Submitted on a UB-04

**Source:** Corporate Medical Policy for Clinical Trials

**Definition:** Billing Requirements for Clinical Trials, see below

### Modifier Requirements

According to CMS policy, any service identified as part of a clinical trial must be billed with modifier -Q0 (investigational clinical service provided in a clinical research study that is in an approved clinical (research study), or -Q1 (routine clinical service provided in a clinical research study that is in an approved clinical research study). Additionally, the billed service must be accompanied by ICD-10-CM code Z00.6 (encounter for examination for normal comparison and control in clinical research program) on the claim. Therefore, failure to include the requisite diagnosis results in a claim denial.

### Diagnosis Requirements

According to CMS policy, HCPCS codes G0293 (non-covered surgical procedure using conscious sedation, regional, general, or spinal anesthesia in a Medicare qualifying clinical trial) and G0294 (non-covered procedure using no anesthesia or local anesthesia only in a Medicare qualifying clinical trial) are to be used specifically during clinical trials. The appropriate diagnosis to accompany these HCPCS codes is ICD-10-CM code Z00.6 (encounter for examination for normal comparison and control in clinical research program). Therefore, G0293 and G0294 billed without Z00.6 results in a denial.

\*Note: This edit also follows Blue Cross VT Clinical Trials Corporate Medical Policy. Refer to the policy for more information on allowed and non-covered services.

- Ulcer Debridement and Ulcer Stages

According to the ICD-10-CM Manual, there are specific diagnosis codes that reflect the stage of a pressure ulcer. When debridement of a pressure ulcer is performed, the procedure code should also reflect the stage of the pressure ulcer.

- Procedures that do not remedy a health state

According to CMS policy, services which are elective in nature (ICD-10-CM codes Z40.8-Z40.9, Z41.1, Z41.3, Z41.9) and do not remedy a health state are considered noncovered. Therefore, any procedure billed with these diagnosis codes are denied.

- Multiplex Nucleic Acid Amplified Tests for Respiratory Viral Panels

According to CMS policy, the test to detect a respiratory infectious agent by nucleic acid (87631, 87636-87637, 0240U, 0241U) must include an approved secondary diagnosis indicating the pathogen detection and immunocompromised condition in addition to the sign or symptom for the suspicion of the respiratory illness. This edit denies claim lines billed with 87631, 87636-87637, 0240U, or 0241U (respiratory infectious agent detection by nucleic acid) without an approved secondary diagnosis.

### Examples of signs and symptom diagnoses:

- Acute upper respiratory infection (ICD-10-CM code J06.9)
- COVID-19 (ICD-10-CM code U07.1)
- Influenza (ICD-10-CM codes J09.X1-J09.X9)

### Examples of approved secondary diagnoses:

- Acute bronchitis (ICD-10-CM code J20.8)
- Coronavirus (ICD-10-CM code B97.29)
- Pneumonia (ICD-10-CM codes J12.0-J12.9, J15.8, J16.8, J18-J18.9)

**Code Edit:** **Diagnosis Validity**

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional claims, CMS 1500 and Outpatient Facility Claim Submitted on a UB-04

**Source:** ICD-10-CM and CMS

**Definition:** Annually, diagnosis (ICD-10-CM) codes undergo revision by the governing entity. Revisions typically include adding new diagnosis codes, deleting diagnosis codes, and redefining the description or nomenclature of existing diagnosis codes. As these revisions are made public, our secondary claims editor updates its database to reflect these changes. Based on CMS policy, we will not allow a grace period for reporting deleted codes. Claims submitted with deleted ICD-10-CM codes are denied. The provider needs to resubmit the claim as a corrected claim with a valid ICD-10-CM code at the highest level of specificity.

This edit is applied:

**Diagnosis Specificity**

Claims received with **any** diagnosis code not coded to the highest level of specificity are denied. The provider needs to resubmit the claim as a corrected claim with an updated ICD-10-CM code at the highest level of specificity.

**Invalid Diagnosis**

Invalid diagnosis codes are defined as codes submitted by a provider that cannot be correlated to a diagnosis code that was valid at any point in time. When a claim is received with **any** invalid ICD-10-CM code, then it is denied. Deleted diagnosis codes are defined as diagnoses that have been valid at some point in the past but have either been deleted by the governing entity or have been modified with either greater or lesser specificity. All diagnosis codes are assigned an effective date and a termination date by the governing body. Claims received with deleted diagnosis codes are validated against the date of service. Therefore, **any** deleted ICD-10-CM code corresponding to the date of service is considered as invalid and the claim denied.

**Code Edit:** **Duplicate Services**

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional Claims, CMS 1500 and Outpatient Facility Claim Submitted on a UB-04

**Source:** Administrative Claims Processing Rules

**Definition:** Claims are edited against basic administrative processing rules and claims meeting the duplicate criteria are denied or flagged for Coding Validation (CV) depending on the circumstances. This edit compares new claims and claim lines in both history and in the same new claim. Primary elements considered for duplicate claim logic include but are not limited to:

- Subscriber Identification
- Dependent Identification
- Date of Service
- Procedure Code
- Modifiers

- Units
- Claim Type
- Tax ID
- Specialty

Note: BlueCard claims are excluded from this edit.

**Code Edit: Frequency - Other Services**

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** CMS HCPCS Level II Manual, Regional CMS Policy (local coverage determination), CMS Transmittals, Memos, and Publications

**Definition:**

Home Health Recertification - G0179 – once every 2-months

Care Plan Oversight - care coordination services are denied when billed in the same calendar month of a monthly ESRD service

Chiropractic Manipulation - 98940-98942 – one per day

Emergency Response System - S5161 – once per month

Peripheral Nerve Stimulation - 64555 – twice per year

Psychiatric Diagnostic Evaluation - any combination of 90791 or 90792 – three units per year

Telehealth – Nursing Facility - 99307, 99308, 99309, 99310 (appended with Modifier -GT or -GQ) – one visit every 2-weeks

**Code Edit: Frequency- Preventive Services**

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** CMS, AMA CPT® Changes, CMS’s Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) and Policy Manual

**Definition:**

Diabetes Screening

- Not Pre-Diabetic – one a year
- Pre-diabetic – every 6-months

Cardiovascular Disease screening

- Cardiovascular screening when billed with laboratory services are reimbursed once in a 5-year period

Additionally

- Allergen extract – 30 units per year
- Ocular photo – twice a year
- Integumentary photo – once a year

Drug Testing

- 80305, 80306, 80307 – one combined per day
- G0480, G0481, G0482, G0483, G0659 – one combined unit per day

**Code Edit:** Global Comp

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2021

**Application:** ClaimsXten-Select™

**Claim Type:** Professional Claims, CMS 1500 and Outpatient Facility Claim Submitted on a UB-04

**Source:** CMS

**Definition:** Identifies claim lines with procedure codes which have components (professional and technical) to prevent overpayment for either the professional or technical components or the global procedure. The rule also detects when duplicate submissions occurred for the total global procedure or its components across different providers.

The following scenarios are audited:

Global vs. Global

Global vs. Professional

Global vs. Technical

Professional vs. Global

Technical vs. Global

Professional vs. Professional

Technical vs. Technical

**Code Edit:** Global Surgery

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** CMS, AMA CPT® Manual

**Definition:** CMS defines the global surgical package, also called global surgery as all the necessary services normally furnished by a surgeon before, during and after a procedure. The Global Surgery Package applies only to surgical procedures that have postoperative periods of 0, 10 and 90 days, as defined by CMS. The global surgery concept applies only to primary surgeons and co-surgeons.

This edit follows CMS and national guidelines for items that are included in the Global Surgery Package such as:

- Preoperative Evaluation and Management (E/M) visits after the decision is made to operate one day prior to major surgery and on the same day a major or minor surgery is performed.

- Postoperative E/M's that are related to the surgery. Unrelated services should be reported with the appropriate modifiers.
- Intra-operative services that are a usual and necessary part of the surgical procedure.
- Supplies including surgical trays
- All additional medical or surgical services required of the surgeon during the postoperative period because of complications.
- Anesthesia or postoperative pain management by the surgeon.
- Dressing changes; local incisional care; removal of operative packs; removal of cutaneous sutures, staples, lines, wires, tubes, drains, and splints; insertion, irrigation, and removal of urinary catheters; routine peripheral intravenous lines; nasogastric and rectal tubes; change and removal of tracheostomy tubes.

Report the appropriate modifiers to reflect services in connection with or distinct from the Global Surgical Package when applicable. Modifiers include but are not limited to:

- -47 Anesthesia by surgeon
- -57 Decision for surgery
- -58 Staged procedure
- -78 Unplanned return to operating room by the same physician or other qualified health care professional following initial procedure for a related procedure during the postoperative period
- -79 Unrelated procedure or service by the same physician or other qualified health care professional during postoperative period
- -24 Unrelated E/M service by the same physician or other qualified health care professional during a postoperative period
- -25 Significant, separately identifiable E/M by the same physician or other qualified health care professional on the same day of the procedure or other service

\*Note: Modifiers are subject to additional editing for Coding Validation (CV) and CMS guidelines for Global Surgical Package.

**Code Edit:** **Implant Procedures Requires Implant Device**

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Outpatient Facility Claim Submitted on a UB-04

**Source:** CMS

**Definition:** Procedures that require one or more implant device(s) are required to be billed. If the implant device is not present than the services are denied.

**Code Edit:** **Inpatient Only Services**

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional Claims, CMS 1500 and Outpatient Facility Claim Submitted on a UB-04

**Source:** CMS

**Definition:** Identifies services that may only be performed in an inpatient setting, Place of Service (POS) 21 due to the nature of the service, the need for postoperative care, and the underlying condition of the patient requiring the service.

#### Inpatient-Only Non-Separate Procedures and Modifier -CA

- An exception for facility claims in a situation where a patient expires in an outpatient setting prior to an inpatient admission. If this occurs, the facility is required to use a modifier -CS (procedure payable only in the inpatient setting when performed urgently on an outpatient basis prior to admission.)

#### Inpatient-Only Separate Procedures

- Procedures designated as Inpatient Separate procedures are not payable regardless of the modifier -CA

If identified services are billed in the outpatient setting or if billed with a -CA modifier inappropriately the services are denied.

#### **Code Edit:** Laboratory Services Billed by Physicians

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** CMS

**Definition:** The technical and professional components of a laboratory test are included in the payment to the facility in which the services are rendered. Physicians are not eligible and are not separately reimbursed for the technical and/or professional components of laboratory services performed in a facility setting.

There is, however, an exception to this policy when the professional component is billed by physicians of the following specialties of medicine:

- Dermatology
- Genetics
- Hematology
- Laboratory
- Pathology

#### **Code Edit:** Lifetime Event

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2021

**Application:** ClaimsXten-Select™

**Claim Type:** Professional Claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** AMA

**Definition:** Audits claims to determine if a procedure code(s) has been submitted more than once or twice on same date of service or across dates of service when it can only be performed once or twice in a lifetime.

The Lifetime Value is the total number of times that a given procedure may be appropriately submitted in a lifetime. This is reflective of the total number of times it is clinically possible or clinically reasonable to perform a given procedure on same date of service or across dates of service. After the maximum number of times is reached, additional submissions of the procedure are not recommended for reimbursement. Lifetime values are assigned according to anatomic sites and AMA/CMS guidelines associated with each procedure.

This rule denies a claim that contains a procedure code that has been submitted more than once or twice on same date of service or across dates of service because it has been identified as a procedure that can only be performed once or twice in a lifetime.

**Code Edit:** Maximum Units

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional claims, CMS 1500 and Outpatient including Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASC)

**Source:** CMS, AMA CPT® Manual, ICD-10-CM, American College of Surgeons

**Definition:** All procedure codes have been assigned a maximum number of units that may be billed per day and/or per year for a member.

When a provider bills a certain number of units that exceed the assigned allowed for that procedure, then the total number of units is adjusted to the assigned allowed amount and the excess units are denied. Modifiers are taken into consideration during the processing of this edit. The maximum units logic only apply to procedures with like modifiers.

The Maximum units Edit applied:

- Anatomical Modifiers (-E1, through -E4, -FA- through -F9, -TA through -T9)
- Certain obstetrical diagnostic services with maximum units per day restrictions based on diagnosis code (Ex: Twin pregnancy ICD-10-CM codes O30.009, O30.099)
- Daily Maximum Units - All procedure codes have been assigned a maximum number of units that may be billed per day for a member (member-based), regardless of the provider. Criteria that are used to determine daily maximum units can include but it is not limited to:
  - Procedure code definition or nomenclature anatomical site
  - CMS guidelines and medically unlikely edits (MUEs)
  - Data analysis for codes with each in their definition
- Excess units when the same provider bills a certain number of units of team surgery or co-surgery that exceeded the daily assigned allowable unit(s) for that procedure for the same member.
- Daily units for certain procedures are limited to one unit per day regardless of modifier according to the AMA CPT® Manual and the HCPCS Level II Manual code descriptors
- Daily maximum units for surgeries that allow multiple assistant surgeons
- Annual Maximum Units - Certain procedure codes have been assigned a maximum number of units that may be billed within a 12-month period for a member. This edit is geared toward the services that one would expect to see no more than once within a year, or twice a year for bilateral procedures. It complements the policy on those procedures that can only be done once in a lifetime. The sources for these unit settings can include:



- CMS policies on once in a lifetime procedure
- Procedure code definition or nomenclature
- Anatomical site
- Additional Industry Standard guidelines

**Code Edit:** Medicare Medically Unlikely Edits (MUE) Durable Medical Equipment (DME)

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2021

**Application:** ClaimsXten-Select™

**Claim Type:** Professional Claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** CMS

**Definition:** This rule identifies claim lines where the MUE has been exceeded for a CPT®/HCPCS code with MUE adjudication indicator (MAI) = 1, 2 or 3, reported by the same provider or across providers (depending on the provider setting configuration), for the same member, on the same date of service. This rule evaluates date ranges to determine if the MUE has been met or not.

- MAI = 1 claim line edit
- MAI = 2 date of service edits (based on policy)
- MAI = 3 date of service edits (based on clinical benchmarks)

MUE for a HCPCS/CPT® code is maximum units of service that a provider would report under most circumstances for a single member on a single date of service. The MUE values are based upon anatomic considerations, HCPCS/CPT® code descriptors, HCPCS/CPT® instructions, CMS policies, nature of the analyte, nature of service/procedure, nature of the equipment, and/or clinical judgment prescribing information and claims data.

The history line and the current line quantities are summed for the same date of service and provider. If the total quantity exceeds the recommended value, only the incorrect line is denied (all current lines are not denied). A new line may be added with the allowed MUE and processed accordingly.

**Code Edit:** Medicare Medically Unlikely Edits (MUE) Outpatient Hospital DOS

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2021

**Application:** ClaimsXten-Select™

**Claim Type:** Outpatient Facility Claim Submitted on a UB-04

**Source:** CMS

**Definition:** Identifies claim lines where the MUE has been exceeded for a CPT®/HCPCS code with MUE adjudication indicator (MAI) = 1, 2 or 3, reported by the same provider, for the same member, on the same date of service.

Guidelines found in the National Correct Coding Initiative Policy Manual for Medicare Services, Chapter I, General Correct Coding Policies, under Section V for Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs) state: "To lower the Medicare Fee-For-Service Paid Claims Error Rate, CMS has established units of service

edits referred to as Medically Unlikely Edit(s) (MUEs). An MUE for a HCPCS/ CPT® code is the maximum number of Units of Service (UOS) under most circumstances allowable by the same provider for the same [member] on the same date of service. The ideal MUE value for a HCPCS/ CPT® code is the unit of service that allows the vast majority of appropriately coded claims to pass the MUE.”

The MUE values are based upon anatomic considerations, HCPCS/CPT® code descriptors, HCPCS/CPT® instructions, CMS policies, nature of analyte, nature of service/procedure, nature of equipment, and/or clinical judgment prescribing information and claims data. In addition to the MUE value assigned to each procedure code in the MUE table, an MAI (MUE adjudication indicator) value of 1, 2 or 3 is also assigned.

This rule evaluates date ranges to determine if the MUE has been exceeded.

The history line and the current line quantities are summed for the same date of service and provider. If the total quantity exceeds the recommended value, only the incorrect line is denied (all current lines are not denied). A new line may be added with the allowed MUE and processed accordingly.

### **Code Edit:** Medicare Medically Unlikely Edits (MUE) Practitioner Date of Service

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2021

**Application:** ClaimsXten-Select™

**Claim Type:** Professional claims, CMS 1500

**Definition:** This rule identifies claim lines where the MUE has been exceeded for a CPT®/HCPCS code with MUE adjudication indicator (MAI) = 1, 2 or 3, reported by the same provider, for the same member, on the same date of service. This rule evaluates date ranges to determine if the MUE has been met or not.

MAI = 1 claim line edit

MAI = 2 date of service edits (based on policy)

MAI = 3 date of service edits (based on clinical benchmarks)

MUE for a HCPCS/CPT® code is maximum units of service that a provider would report under most circumstances for a single member on a single date of service. The MUE values are based upon anatomic considerations, HCPCS/CPT® code descriptors, HCPCS/CPT® instructions, CMS policies, nature of analyte, nature of service/procedure, nature of equipment, and/or clinical judgment prescribing information and claims data.

This rule evaluates date ranges to determine if the MUE has been exceeded.

The history line and the current line quantities are summed for the same date of service and provider. If the total quantity exceeds the recommended value, only the incorrect line is denied (all current lines are not denied). A new line may be added with the allowed MUE and processed accordingly.

**Code Edit:** Missing Professional Component Modifier -26

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2021

**Application:** ClaimsXten-Select™

**Claim Type:** Professional Claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** CMS

**Definition:** Identifies claim lines where a modifier -26, denoting professional component, should have been reported for the procedure performed at the noted Place of Service (POS).

The CMS guidelines establish that certain procedures, when performed in certain settings, require the billing of the professional component modifier. Procedure codes with a modifier -26 line in the National Physician Fee Schedule Relative Value File are included in this list of procedures.

This rule recommends the denial of claim lines containing a procedure code submitted without a professional component modifier -26 in a facility setting (POS: 02, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 31, 34, 51, 52, 53, 56, and 61). The rule replaces the line with a new line with the same procedure code and the professional component modifier -26.

**Code Edit:** Modifier to Procedure Validation Payment Modifiers

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2021

**Application:** ClaimsXten-Select™

**Claim Type:** Professional Claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** AMA/CMS

**Definition:** Identifies claim lines with invalid modifier to procedure code combinations for those modifiers identified as payment modifiers.

This rule recommends the denial of procedure codes when billed with any payment-affecting modifier that is not likely or appropriate for the procedure code billed. When multiple modifiers are submitted on a line, all are evaluated and if at least one is found invalid with the procedure code, the line is recommended for denial.

**Code Edit:** Multiple Code Re-Bundling

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2021

**Application:** ClaimsXten-Select™

**Claim Type:** Professional Claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** AMA

**Definition:** Identifies claims containing two or more procedure codes used to report a service when a single, more comprehensive procedure code exists that more accurately represents the service performed. This is typically identified by the CPT® code description of each code.

Occasionally, the code that represents the comprehensive procedure is added to the claim resulting in the component procedures being disallowed. To correct this type of coding error, the unbundled procedure code(s) is re-bundled to the comprehensive procedure code.

This rule recommends the denial of claim lines when another more comprehensive procedure is submitted for the same date of service for the same provider identification. The rule may also recommend denial of multiple claims lines with replacement of those claim lines with a single, more comprehensive procedure code.

**Code Edit:** Multiple Evaluation and Management Services on the Same Day

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** CMS, AMA CPT® Manual

**Definition:** Provider should only bill a new patient exam or initial care visit for one date of service. Additional visits should be submitted with the appropriate established patient or facility codes.

New patient or initial care visit codes billed with units that are greater than one per date of service are denied.

Multiple Evaluation and Management (E/M) Services on the Same Day:

Only one E/M code is allowed for a single date of service for the same provider group and specialty. If multiple E/M services are preformed, then the E/M services are ranked by RVU price unless billed with a -25 modifier.

Separate and Distinct E/M Services:

Separate and distinct E/M services that are reported with a modifier -25 are allowed with one unit for the specific service.

\*Note: When an Evaluation and Management Edit is bypassed due to use of modifier 25 the claim line will be flagged for Coding Validation (CV).

**Code Edit:** National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI)

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional Claims, CMS 1500 and Outpatient Facility Claim Submitted on a UB-04

**Source:** CCI Edits, CMS's Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) and Policy Manual

**Definition:** The CMS National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) policies are based on coding conventions defined in the American Medical Association (AMA) CPT® Manual, national and local Medicare policies and edits, coding guidelines developed by national societies, standard medical and surgical practice and/or current coding practice. This edit denies claim lines for which the submitted procedure is not recommended for reimbursement as defined by a code pair found in the NCCI.

\*Note: Use of recognized NCCI modifiers will be flagged for Coding Validation (CV) to validate whether the modifier was appropriately applied.

**Code Edit:** National Correct Coding Manual

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional Claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** CCI Policy Manual, CMS's Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) and Policy Manual

**Definition:** Apply the National Correct Coding Initiative Policy Manual (NCCIPM) and denies procedures considered to be inappropriately coded based on National Correct Coding Initiative Policies and Guidelines. These supplement the CCI edits and are based on the AMA CPT® Manual.

**Code Edit:** New Patient Code for Established Patients

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2021

**Application:** ClaimsXten-Select™

**Claim Type:** Professional Claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** AMA/CMS

**Definition:** According to the AMA, "A new patient is one who has not received any professional services from the physician or another physician of the same specialty who belongs to the same group practice, within the past three years."

When a new patient Evaluation and Management code is found on the claim, but another Evaluation and Management or other Face-to-face professional service was performed within the last three years, the new patient code is denied and replaced with the appropriate established patient code.

When a new patient code inconsistency is identified on a claim, the code(s) in question are denied. Where an appropriate replacement procedure code exists, the inappropriate procedure code is denied and a new claim line with the appropriate procedure code may be added to the claim and processed accordingly.

**Code Edit:** Obstetrics Package

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2021

**Application:** ClaimsXten-Select™

**Claim Type:** Professional Claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** AMA

**Definition:** This rule audits potential overpayments for obstetric care. It evaluates claim lines to determine if any global obstetric care codes (defined as containing antepartum, delivery and postpartum services, i.e., 59400, 59510, 59610 and 59618) were submitted with another global OB care code or a component code such as the antepartum care, postpartum care, or delivery only services, during the average length of time of the typical pregnancy (and postpartum period as applicable) 280 and 322 days, respectively.

**Code Edit:** Outpatient Code Editor CMS CCI Bundling

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2021

**Application:** ClaimsXten-Select™

**Claim Type:** Outpatient Facility Claims submitted on a UB-04

**Source:** CMS

**Definition:** Identifies claims containing code pairs found to be unbundled according to CMS Integrated Outpatient Code Editor (I/OCE).

One of the functions of the I/OCE is to edit claims data to identify errors for one of the following reasons:

- Procedure is a mutually exclusive procedure that is not allowed by the Correct Coding Initiative (CCI).
- Procedure is a component of a comprehensive procedure that is not allowed by the CCI.

Critical Access Hospitals (bill type 85x) submitting claims containing both facility services and professional services that are reported with revenue codes (096x, 097x, 098x), do not have NCCI editing applied across facility and professional services appearing on the same day; NCCI editing is applied for the professional services separately from facility services.

This rule recommends the denial of claim lines for which the submitted procedure is not recommended for reimbursement when submitted with another procedure as defined by a code pair found in the I/OCE. Both codes must have the same provider identification, same member, and same date of service.

**Code Edit:** Pay Percent Assistant Surgery

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2021

**Application:** ClaimsXten-Select™

**Claim Type:** Professional claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** AMA/CMS

**Definition:** Identifies claim lines that are eligible for an Assistant Surgeon Pay Percent reduction. Assigns appropriate pay percentage to the eligible line(s), including adjustments for assistant surgeon status, multiple procedure, \*bilateral, \*multiple quantity, and \*additional payment modifiers.

**Code Edit:** Pay Percent for Single Lines with Payment Modifiers or Multiple Quantity

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2021

**Application:** ClaimsXten-Select™

**Claim Type:** Professional claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** AMA/CMS

**Definition:** Identifies claim lines that are eligible for Pay Percent adjustments for bilateral, multiple quantity, and/or payment modifiers.

Also, identifies claim lines/certain procedures that are subject to payment reduction when the x-rays are taken using film or computed radiography. Such procedures are required to be submitted with modifier -FX or -FY and receive a reduction in payment.

**Code Edit:** Pay Percent Modifier -51

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2021

**Application:** ClaimsXten-Select™

**Claim Type:** Professional claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** CMS

**Definition:** Identifies claim lines that are eligible for a Multiple Procedure Pay Percent - Multiple Surgeries reduction. Assigns appropriate pay percentage to the eligible line(s), including adjustments for multiple procedure, as well as bilateral, multiple quantity, and additional payment modifiers.

**Code Edit:** Pay Percent Multiple Radiology

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2021

**Application:** ClaimsXten-Select™

**Claim Type:** Professional claims, CMS 1500. This includes CMS 1500 claim submitted with a facility place of service.

**Source:** CMS

**Definition:** Identifies claim lines that are eligible for a Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction - Multiple Diagnostic Imaging services. Also, identifies claim lines/ certain procedures that are subject to payment reduction when the CT equipment does not meet (NEMA) Standard XR-29-2013. Such procedures are required to be submitted with modifier -CT and receive a reduction in payment.

Assigns appropriate pay percentage to the eligible line(s), including adjustments for multiple procedure, as well as bilateral, multiple quantity, and additional payment modifier.

Editing occurs across claims and follows applicable guidelines based on the date of service. If a claim for a primary procedure is received subsequent to claim(s) already processed for procedures determined to be cut-back, the previously processed claims may be adjusted accordingly.

**Code Edit:** Pay Percent Therapy Facility

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2021

**Application:** ClaimsXten-Select™

**Claim Type:** Outpatient Facility Claims submitted on a UB-04

**Source:** CMS

**Definition:** Identifies claim lines which should receive the reduced reimbursement on certain therapy procedures per CMS for institutional facility (UB-04) claims.

**Code Edit:** Physician Fee Schedule Non-Facility N/A Indicator

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional Claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** CMS

**Definition:** Status indicator N/A in a Non-Facility setting indicates that codes are not performed in an office setting as these procedures generally require general anesthesia.

If identified services are billed with a place of service 11, services are denied.

**Code Edit:** Post-Operative Visit

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2021

**Application:** ClaimsXten-Select™

**Claim Type:** Professional claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** CMS

**Definition:** Identifies and recommends denial of Evaluation and Management or global procedure codes billed by the same provider within a procedures post-operative period.

Claim line denies.

**Code Edit:** Pre-Admission Outpatient Services Inclusive to an Admission

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Outpatient Facility Claim Submitted on a UB-04

**Source:** CMS

**Definition:** Preadmission diagnostic and non-diagnostic services, other than ambulance, provided by the admitting hospital within three calendar days of the admission are considered related to the admission and not separately payable.

**Code Edit:** Pre-Operative Visit

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2021

**Application:** ClaimsXten-Select™

**Claim Type:** Professional claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** CMS

**Definition:** Identifies procedure codes billed by the same provider within a procedure's preoperative period.

Claim line denies.



**Code Edit: Procedure Age**

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional claims, CMS 1500

Source: ADA Dental Services Manual, AMA CPT® Assistant, AMA CPT® Manual, AMA principles of CPT® coding; CMS, HCPCS Level II Manual.

**Definition:** Certain procedure codes, by definition or nature of the procedure, are limited to the treatment of a specific age or age group. Claims and/or claim lines reported with procedure codes that are inconsistent with the patient's age are denied.

**Code Edit: Procedure Code Definition**

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional claims, CMS 1500 and Outpatient Facility Claims submitted on a UB-04

Source: AMA CPT® Manual, CMS, HCPCS Level II Manual.

**Definition:** This policy is based on our efforts to support correct coding and edits based on the definition or nature of a procedure code or a combination of procedure codes. These rules deny procedures based on the appropriateness of the code selection.

This edit applies:

Out of sequence claims (Mutually Exclusive and Non-Mutually Exclusive Edits):

Out of sequence claims are claims that involve procedures that have been performed on the same date of service and billed on multiple claims at different times. The claim with services that would usually be bundled is billed on a date prior to billing a claim with the more comprehensive procedure. When out of sequence claims are received, the subsequent services are denied.

Flag procedures with modifier based on CPT® procedure code definition. Non-mutually exclusive for Coding Validation (CV):

The second pass claims editor uses coding validation methods that support correct coding based on the definition of a code as found in the AMA CPT® Manual, or nature of a procedure code or a combination of procedure codes. Certain procedures are considered to be an integral part of a more comprehensive procedure and should therefore not be reported separately, unless reported with an appropriate modifier. Following coding validation, if the information contained on the claim and within the claim history does not support the use of a modifier to override the unbundling edit, the recommendation is to deny the component code.

Modifiers included in this policy: -24, -25, -57, -58, -78, -79, -27, -59, -91, -XE, -XS, -XP, -XU, -E1, -E2, -E3, -E4, -FA, -F1, F2, F3, -F4, -F5, -F6, -F7, F8, -F9, -TA, -T1, -T2, -T3, -T4, -T5, T6, -T7, -T8, -T9, -LT, -RT, -LC, -LD, -RC, -LM, -RI.

**Code Edit:** Procedure Code Guideline

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional claims, CMS 1500

Source: AMA CPT® Assistant, AMA CPT® Manual, CMS, HCPCS Level II Manual, ADA Dental Services Manual

**Definition:** Throughout the AMA CPT® Manual and CMS HCPCS Level II Manual, publishers have provided instructions on code usage. This edit applies these guidelines and denies services that are coded inappropriately based on CPT® /HCPCS Procedure Code Guidelines.

Examples of edits applied:

- Modifier -63 when coded inappropriately based on CPT® /HCPCS Procedure Code Guidelines
- Out of Sequence Claims

Out of sequence claims are claims that involve procedures that have been performed on the same date of service and billed on multiple claims at different times. The claim with services that would usually be bundled is billed on a date prior to billing a claim with the more comprehensive procedure. This edit addresses out of sequence claims as they relate to services that would have been recoded into different procedures had they been billed together. When out of sequence claims are received, the subsequent services are denied.

**Coding Validation for Procedure Code Guidelines Policy:**

This edit flags procedures for review that are considered an integral part of a more comprehensive procedure and should therefore not be reported separately, unless reported with an appropriate modifier. Following coding validation, if the information contained on the claim and within the claim history does not support the use of a modifier to override the unbundling edit, the component code is denied.

Modifiers included in this edit: -24, -25, -57, -58, -78, -79, -27, -59, -91, -XE, -XS, -XP, -XU, -E1, E2, -E3 -E4, -FA, -F1, -F2, -F3, -F4, -F5, -F6, -F7, -F8, -F9, -TA, -T1, -T2, -T3, -T4, -T5, -T6, -T7, -T8, -T9, -LT, -RT, -LC, -LD, -RC, -LM, and -RI.

Procedures with reported modifiers may be flagged for coding validation for non-mutually exclusive and mutually exclusive edits when appropriate based on CPT® Procedure Code Guidelines.

Out of Sequence Claims Coding Validation for mutually exclusive and non-mutually exclusive procedures

Out of sequence claims are claims that involve procedures that have been performed on the same date of service and billed on multiple claims at different times. The claim with services that would usually be bundled is billed on a date prior to billing a claim with the more comprehensive procedure.

This edit addresses out of sequence claims as they relate to services that would have been flagged for review had they been billed together. When out of sequence claims are received, the subsequent services are flagged for review.

**Code Edit:** Professional, Technical, and Global Services

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional claims, CMS 1500 and Outpatient including Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASC)

**Source:** CMS, AMA Principles of CPT® Coding, CMS National Physician Relative Value File

**Definition:** Diagnostic tests and radiology services are procedure codes that include two components: professional and technical.

The professional component describes the physician work portion of a procedure and is represented by a procedure code with a modifier -26.

The technical component describes the technical portion of a procedure, such as the use of equipment and staff needed to perform the service and is represented by a procedure code with modifier -TC. The global service represents the sum of both the professional and technical components and is represented by the CPT®/HCPCS code for the service without modifiers -26 and -TC. Only procedure codes designated as diagnostic tests or radiology services have the two individual components.

This edit applies AMA Principles of CPT® coding to verify if modifiers -26 and -TC were appropriately reported. Claims and/or claim lines coded incorrectly or missing the appropriate modifiers are denied.

Payment is based on no more than the global service regardless of whether the billing is from the same or different provider, specialty, or Tax Identification. If any provider splits components of the same global service, whether on the same or different claims, then the claim(s) are adjusted to allow only the global service. (CMS guidelines)

**Code Edit:** Professional Component of Radiology Services in Facility Places of Service

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** CMS

**Definition:** The interpretation and report for an x-ray procedure would be expected to be billed by the radiologist associated with the inpatient or outpatient facility where the x-ray procedure was performed. Cardiologist, anesthesiologist, and radiation oncologists should only bill the professional interpretation of radiological procedures that are appropriate for their specialty.

When a provider other than an anesthesiologist, cardiologist, multi-specialist, neurologist, physical medicine specialist, radiologist, or radiation oncologist bills the professional component for a radiology procedure in an inpatient or outpatient hospital setting, and the radiological service performed is not appropriate for their specialty, services are denied.

**Code Edit:** Same Day Visit

**Effective Date:** January 1, 2021

**Application:** ClaimsXten-Select™

**Claim Type:** Professional claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** CMS

**Definition:** This claim editing logic identifies when an Evaluation and Management (E&M) service is billed on the same day as a surgical procedure or substantial diagnostic or therapeutic (such as dialysis, chemotherapy, and osteopathic manipulative treatment) procedure.

An E&M code reported for the same date of service as a procedure rendered by that same provider is considered included within the global reimbursement for that procedure. In such circumstances, CXT editing does not consider the E&M service for reimbursement and line is denied.

**Code Edit:** Separate Procedures

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** AMA CPT® Manual

**Definition:** CPT® codes that represent a “separate procedure” as described within the CPT® Manual is edited and denied when reported in conjunction with, and related to, a major service. However, in instances where the separate procedure is carried out independently from, or is unrelated to, the major procedure, then the service may be reported with a distinct services modifier as appropriate to the circumstance.

**Code Edit:** Team Surgery

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional Claims, CMS 1500

**Source:** CMS, and CMS, and Current Procedural Terminology® (CPT®) guidelines

**Definition:** The Medicare Physician Fee Schedule includes a list of procedures and services where the Team Surgery concept does not apply. These are generally procedures that are minor or services that are non-surgical in nature and denied if billed with modifier -66 (team surgery).

Additional circumstances edited when billed with modifier -66:

Previously Processed Claims with Modifier -66

When a claim is received without modifier -66 and there exists a previously processed claim for the same procedure code with modifier -66 by any provider, the second claim will be denied.

Previously Processed Claims Without Modifier -66

If a provider bills a procedure with modifier -66 and a claim has already been processed for any provider without modifier -66 appended to the code, the second claim is denied.

Please refer to the Provider Handbook for additional information on modifiers.

**Code Edit:** Therapy and Assistant Therapy Modifier

**Effective Date:** December 9, 2022

**Application:** Cotiviti, Inc.

**Claim Type:** Professional claims, CMS 1500 and Outpatient Facility Claims submitted on a UB-04

**Source:** CMS

**Definition:** Therapy services are required to be billed with the following modifiers:

Therapy Services Modifiers-

- -GN - Services delivered under an outpatient speech language pathology plan of care
- -GO - Services delivered under an outpatient occupational therapy plan of care
- -GP - Services delivered under an outpatient physical therapy plan of care

Assistant Therapy Services Modifiers-

- -CO - Outpatient occupational therapy services furnished in whole or in part by an occupational therapy assistant
- -CQ - Outpatient physical therapy services furnished in whole or in part by a physical therapy assistant

Claims for physical, speech, and occupational therapies are required to be billed with the appropriate modifier for the service. Claims without the appropriate modifier for services are denied.

Please refer to the Corporate Medical Policies for Physical Therapy/Medicine, Speech Language Pathology/Therapy Services and Occupational Therapy for additional information on these services.