



November 15, 2018

Re: Medical policy updates, effective February 18, 2019

We routinely review our coverage, reimbursement, and administrative policies for potential updates. In that review, we take into consideration one or more of the following: evidence-based medicine, professional society recommendations, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) guidance, industry standards, and our other existing policies.

As a result of a recent review, we want to make you aware that we will implement one new medical coverage policy and update an existing reimbursement policy.

Diagnostic microbe testing for sexually transmitted diseases

We will implement a new medical coverage policy, Diagnostic Microbe Testing for Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) (0530), to review tests for medical necessity. This policy is effective for dates of service beginning February 18, 2019.

Please note that this policy does *not* affect STD testing that is covered as a preventive benefit when billed with a wellness diagnosis. Additionally, medical necessity review is not required when STD testing is for patients ages two and under, or when billed with a pregnancy diagnosis.

National Correct Coding Initiatives for facilities

We will expand the list in our current National Correct Coding Initiatives (NCCI) for Facilities Reimbursement Policy (R09) to include industry-standard column one and column two procedure-to-procedure (PTP) codes where at least one of the codes is for an evaluation and management (E&M) visit in an emergency room when billed with another service. We will deny either the E&M or the other service as not separately reimbursable. This update affects claims from outpatient facilities processed on or after February 18, 2019.

Additional information

For more information about our policies, please visit the Cigna for Health Care Professionals website at CignaforHCP.com (Resources > Clinical Reimbursement Policies and Payment Policies > Coverage Policy Updates).

If you are not a registered user, please register so you may log in and access all of our coverage, reimbursement, and administrative policies. Go to CignaforHCP.com and click "Register Now." If you do not have Internet access or would like additional information, please call Cigna Customer Service at 1.800.88Cigna (882.4462).

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Thank you for the care you provide our customers.

Sincerely,

JB Kessel MD

Julie B. Kessel, MD
Senior Medical Director