

Contrast and Radiopharmaceutical Materials Policy, Professional

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT THIS REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

You are responsible for submission of accurate claims. This reimbursement policy is intended to ensure that you are reimbursed based on the code or codes that correctly describe the health care services provided. UnitedHealthcare Community Plan reimbursement policies uses Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) or other coding guidelines. References to CPT or other sources are for definitional purposes only and do not imply any right to reimbursement.*

This reimbursement policy applies to all health care services billed on CMS 1500 forms and, when specified, to those billed on UB04 forms. Coding methodology, industry-standard reimbursement logic, regulatory requirements, benefits design and other factors are considered in developing reimbursement policy.

This information is intended to serve only as a general reference resource regarding UnitedHealthcare Community Plan's reimbursement policy for the services described and is not intended to address every aspect of a reimbursement situation. Accordingly, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying this policy to health care services provided in a particular case. Further, the policy does not address all issues related to reimbursement for health care services provided to UnitedHealthcare Community Plan enrollees.

Other factors affecting reimbursement may supplement, modify or, in some cases, supersede this policy. These factors include but are not limited to federal &/or state regulatory requirements, the physician or other provider contracts, the enrollee's benefit coverage documents, and/or other reimbursement, medical or drug policies.

Finally, this policy may not be implemented exactly the same way on the different electronic claims processing systems used by UnitedHealthcare Community Plan due to programming or other constraints; however, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan strives to minimize these variations.

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan may modify this reimbursement policy at any time by publishing a new version of the policy on this Website. However, the information presented in this policy is accurate and current as of the date of publication.

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Application

This reimbursement policy applies to UnitedHealthcare Community Plan Medicaid products.

This reimbursement policy applies to services reported using the 1500 Health Insurance Claim Form (a/k/a CMS-1500) or its electronic equivalent or its successor form. This policy applies to all products and all network and non-network physicians and other qualified health care professionals, including, but not limited to, non-network authorized and percent of charge contract physicians and other qualified health care professionals.

Policy

Overview

This policy identifies circumstances where UnitedHealthcare Community Plan will reimburse physicians and other qualified health care professionals for High and Low Osmolar Contrast and Radiopharmaceutical Materials.

For the purposes of this policy, the Same Group Physician or Other Qualified Health Care Professional is defined as all physicians and/or other qualified health care professionals of the same group rendering health care services reporting the same Federal Tax Identification number.

Reimbursement Guidelines

Services Reported in a CMS Facility Place of Service

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan does not permit reimbursement for the technical component or global service of an imaging procedure to a physician or other qualified healthcare professional when the procedure is performed in a facility Place of Service (POS) (19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 34, 51, 52, 56, or 61). UnitedHealthcare Community Plan will not provide reimbursement to a physician or other qualified health care professional for High Osmolar Contrast Materials (HOCM), Low Osmolar Contrast Materials (LOCM) or Radiopharmaceutical Materials submitted with HCPCS codes A4641,

A4642, A9500-A9700, J1245, Q3001, Q9951, Q9953, Q9954, Q9956, Q9957 and Q9958-Q9968 with a facility POS, as these materials would be needed in order to perform the technical component of the imaging or therapeutic nuclear medicine procedure. However, separate reimbursement to a physician for HOCM, LOCM or Radiopharmaceutical Materials will be allowed in an Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) (POS 24) when provided in conjunction with eligible imaging procedures that are not included on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Ambulatory Surgical Center Fee Schedule (ASCFS) Addendum BB. The technical component, global service and associated HOCM, LOCM or Radiopharmaceutical Materials for procedures listed on the ASCFS Addendum BB are included in the facility case rate and not separately reimbursable.

ASCFS Nuclear Medicine Procedures Codes

78267	78268	78350	78351	78609	78835
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ASCFS Contrast and Radiopharmaceutical Materials Codes

A4641	A4642	A9513	A9517	A9530	A9543	A9563	A9564	A9568	A9589
A9600	A9604	A9606	A9607	A9610	A9612	A9699	Q3001		

Service Reported in a CMS Non-Facility Place of Service

When an imaging or therapeutic nuclear medicine procedure is performed in a non-facility setting, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan will provide separate reimbursement to the Same Group Physician or Other Qualified Health Care Professional for HOCM, LOCM or Radiopharmaceutical Materials when reported on the same date of service with a procedure code that requires contrast or Radiopharmaceutical Materials. Additionally, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan will also allow separate reimbursement for contrast and Radiopharmaceutical Materials reported with a date of service up to two days prior to a nuclear medicine imaging scan.

In accordance with CMS coding guidelines, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan will not provide separate reimbursement for Radiopharmaceutical Materials HCPCS code A9512 when submitted with A9538 or A9560 on the same day by the Same Group Physician or Other Qualified Health Care Professional.

For more information regarding the professional/technical concept, refer to the UnitedHealthcare Community Plan "Professional/Technical Component" policy.

Definitions

Osmolar Contrast Materials	An iodine-based substance, administered intravascularly, intra-articularly or intrathecally, that is used to enhance the visibility of structures or fluids within the body during an imaging procedure such as an X-ray, MRI or CT image, or other diagnostic/interventional cardiovascular procedures.
Radiopharmaceutical Materials	Radioactive chemical or pharmaceutical preparations, used as diagnostic or therapeutic agents
Same Group Physician and/or Other Qualified Health Care Professional	All physicians and/or other qualified health care professionals of the same group reporting the same Federal Tax Identification number.

State Exceptions

Minnesota	According to state regulations, CPT codes Q9951, Q9954, Q9956-Q9957 & Q9958-Q9968 are non-covered services.
New Mexico	Professional component or interpretation is not payable to the same provider who bills for the complete procedure. Professional components of radiology service not to exceed 40% of amount allowed.
Wisconsin	WI state regulation considers POS 19 as non-facility place of service

Questions and Answers

1	<p>Q: How was the Eligible Imaging and Therapeutic Procedures Code List derived?</p> <p>A: The Eligible Imaging and Therapeutic Procedures Code List was developed by UnitedHealthcare Community Plan based on the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those codes whose CPT or HCPCS descriptor includes the terms: with contrast, with imaging guidance (fluoroscopy or CT), or including radiologic localization (includes contrast when administered); and • Additional codes in which clinical review determined that Contrast or Radiopharmaceutical Materials were required in order to perform the service.
2	<p>Q: Does UnitedHealthcare Community Plan reimburse for contrast and Radiopharmaceutical materials reported with a date of service up to two days prior to all eligible imaging or therapeutic procedures?</p> <p>A: No. UnitedHealthcare Community Plan will only allow separate reimbursement for contrast and Radiopharmaceutical materials reported with a date of service up to two days prior to a nuclear medicine imaging scan (CPT codes 78012-79999).</p>
3	<p>Q: Does UnitedHealthcare Community Plan reimburse for contrast and Radiopharmaceutical Materials reported with an imaging and therapeutic or nuclear medicine procedure that is denied based on another UnitedHealthcare reimbursement policy?</p> <p>A: No. UnitedHealthcare Community Plan will only allow separate reimbursement for contrast and Radiopharmaceutical Materials when reported with an eligible imaging and therapeutic or nuclear medicine procedure that is also eligible for reimbursement.</p>

Attachments

<p><u>Contrast and Radiopharmaceutical Materials Codes List</u></p>	<p>This list identifies the contrast and Radiopharmaceutical Material codes required to perform an imaging or therapeutic procedure.</p>
<p><u>Nuclear Medicine Procedures Code List</u></p>	<p>This list identifies codes that require Radiopharmaceutical Materials.</p>
<p><u>Eligible Imaging and Therapeutic Procedures Codes List</u></p>	<p>This list identifies codes that require contrast materials.</p>
<p><u>ASCFS Eligible Imaging and Therapeutic Procedures Code List</u></p>	<p>This list identifies imaging and therapeutic procedures that are separately reimbursable when provided in an ASC (POS 24).</p>

Resources

- Individual state Medicaid regulations, manuals & fee schedules
- American Medical Association, *Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®)* and associated publications and services
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS Manual System and other CMS publications and services
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System, HCPCS Release and Code Sets

History	
3/29/2026	Policy Version Change Policy List Update: ASCFS Contrast and Radiopharmaceutical Materials Code List and ASCFS Eligible Imaging and Therapeutic Procedures Code List updated History Section: Entries prior to 3/29/2024 archived
1/1/2026	Policy Version Change Policy List Update: Contrast and Radiopharmaceutical Materials Codes List, ASCFS Eligible Imaging and Therapeutic Procedures Code List and Eligible Imaging and Therapeutic Procedures Codes List updated History Section: Entries prior to 1/1/2024 archived
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3/30/2025	Policy Version Change Policy List Update: Contrast and Radiopharmaceutical Materials Code List Updated Policy List Update: Eligible Imaging and Therapeutic Procedures List Updated History Section: Entries prior to 3/30/2023 archived
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1/1/2008	Implemented by UnitedHealthcare Community & State
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