



A product of AmeriHealth Caritas North Carolina, Inc.

# Diagnosis Procedure Age Guidelines

Reimbursement Policy ID: RPC.0030.NCEX

Recent review date: 11/2023

Next review date: 12/2025

*AmeriHealth Caritas Next reimbursement policies and their resulting edits are based on guidelines from established industry sources, such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the American Medical Association (AMA), state and federal regulatory agencies, and medical specialty professional societies. Reimbursement policies are intended as a general reference and do not constitute a contract or other guarantee of payment. AmeriHealth Caritas Next may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying its policies to services provided in a particular case and may modify its policies at any time.*

*In making claim payment determinations, the health plan also uses coding terminology and methodologies based on accepted industry standards, including Current Procedural Terminology (CPT); the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS); and the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM), and other relevant sources. Other factors that may affect payment include medical record documentation, legislative or regulatory mandates, a provider's contract, a member's eligibility in receiving covered services, submission of clean claims, and other health plan policies, and other relevant factors. These factors may supplement, modify, or in some cases supersede reimbursement policies.*

*This reimbursement policy applies to all health care services billed on a CMS-1500 form or its electronic equivalent, or when billed on a UB-04 form or its electronic equivalent.*

## Policy Overview

This policy addresses age-specific coding edits involving select International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification diagnosis codes and procedure codes from the Procedure Code System (ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS). It also addresses select codes from the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code set and Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) that have age limitations. Age designations are assigned to codes based on code descriptions or on publications and guidelines from sources such as professional specialty societies, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the American Medical Association (AMA) or the American Hospital Association (AHA) Coding Clinic.

## Exceptions

N/A

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The policy develops edits for age for certain codes based on code descriptions, publications and guidelines from sources such as professional specialty societies or similar institutions and from the entities that create the codes [e.g., WHO, CMS, AMA]. AmeriHealth Caritas Next will apply age edits when diagnosis and/or procedure codes are reported inappropriately for the patient's age. Diagnosis and procedure age conflicts will be considered billing errors and will not be reimbursed. For example, if the diagnosis code Z00.00 “Encounter for general adult medical examination with abnormal findings” is billed for a 10-year-old child, the claim will not be reimbursed.

Claims submitted with an age-based diagnosis or procedure code that conflicts with the patient’s age will be denied. For example, a claim for five-year-old male patient with a diagnosis code for benign prostatic hypertrophy will be denied because that diagnosis code is applicable only to adult patients ages 15 to 124, inclusive. Similarly, a claim for a 78-year-old patient with a cesarean section delivery procedure code will be denied because pregnancy diagnosis/procedure codes are only valid for patients ages 12 to 55. Corrected claims are required for payment.

Definitions

N/A

Edit Sources

- I. Current Procedural Terminology (CPT)
- II. Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS)
- III. International Classification, 10th revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM), <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/fy-2024-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines.pdf>
- IV. International Classification, 10th revision, Procedure Code System (ICD-10-PCS), <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/2024-official-icd-10-pcs-coding-guidelines.pdf>

Attachments

N/A

Associated Policies

N/A

Policy History

04/2024	Revised preamble
11/2023	Reimbursement Policy Committee Approval
08/2023	Removal of policy implemented by AmeriHealth Caritas Next from Policy History section
01/2023	Template Revised <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Revised preamble</li><li>Removal of Applicable Claim Types table</li><li>Coding section renamed to Reimbursement Guidelines</li><li>Added Associated Policies section</li></ul>