

Empire BlueCross BlueShield Update-Use of Modifier 25 for Billing for Visits that Include Preventive and Problem Oriented E&M Services

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(Updated on Website 03.31.2023)

On January 1, 2023, Empire BlueCross BlueShield HealthPlus (Empire) stated that they would begin to implement additional steps to review claims for Evaluation & Management (E/M) services submitted by providers when a preventive service is billed with a problem-oriented E/M service and appended with modifier 25 (**Provider News article**). They have since decided to limit this review for claims for members aged 22 and older. Subsequently, they have updated the impacted CPT codes.

Empire will implement additional steps to review claims for Evaluation & Management (E/M) services submitted by providers when a preventive service (CPT codes 99385-99387 or 99395-99397) is billed with a problem-oriented E/M service (CPT codes 99202-99215) and appended with modifier 25 (for example, CPT code 99395 billed with CPT® code 99213-25). This review is limited to claims for members aged 22 and older.

Providers who believe their medical record documentation supports a significant and separately identifiable E/M service should follow the claims payment dispute process (including submission of such with the dispute) outlined in their provider manual.

Reference: Empire BlueCross BlueShield Website