

Anthem to Fix At-Risk Foot Care and Modifier 59 Coding Policy

July 22, 2021

APMA wrote to Anthem, Centene, and Humana to address podiatrists' concerns with these carriers denying correctly coded at-risk foot care claims. As a result, Anthem has now agreed to revise its policy and follow the current National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) policy. The change goes into effect at the end of the month and is enterprise wide. APMA is scheduling another meeting the last week in July to gather more information about this policy change.

In the interim, APMA will continue to push Centene and Humana to make similar changes to their policies.

The primary issue arises when a podiatric physician attempts to code both trimming and/or debriding of toenails (e.g., G0127, CPT 11719, 11720, 11721) and paring or cutting of benign hyperkeratotic lesions (e.g., corn or callus) (e.g., CPT 11055, 11056, 11057). According to podiatrists, these carriers are denying payment of CPT 11719, 11720, 11721, and G0127 based on both the nail procedures and callus procedures having been performed at the same encounter, regardless of the physician's proper use of the NCCI modifiers 59 or X [ESPU], and regardless of the location of the hyperkeratotic lesions pared.