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Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 11:41 AM
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Subject: HCA Issue #22011 Important Changes to NCCI Requirements and SERI
Attachments: HCA Interim SERI Guidance 1-9-2020, Corrections 1-23-2020, Updates 3-19-2020.pdf
Importance: High

Dear MCO and BH-ASO partners,

Below are important changes and updates regarding NCCI and SERI.

Recent New SUD Codes:

- Please do not apply the NCCI MUE edits on the new group add on CPT code 96165. Please do allow intensive outpatient SUD providers to bill 3 hour groups, as this is the service intensity required per ASAM and WAC.
- This should be retro-active to 1/1/2020. Please let me know if this is not doable.
- Also note that if providers and MCOs need more time in implementing the new codes, the implementation date has been extended from 3/1/2020 to 4/1/2020. See attached updated guidance.

XE Modifier issues:

There is a duplicate edit that does not allow the XE modifier to be used on the 3rd claim and any additional claims after that. To avoid denials on these claims for services when the service (same code) is provided more than once a day, modifiers available are:

- XE, to be used once;
- additionally you can use **once each:**
 - UF- services provided in the morning,
 - UG services provided in the afternoon,
 - UH services provided in the evening,

UJ services provided at night

- Interim Guidance updated (see attached, last page)

To MCOs:

National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) Methodologies:

- Per CMS technical guidance manual (<https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/2019-12/technical-guidance-on-state-implementation.pdf>), pages 9-15, NCCI edits for MCOs are optional.
- The current IMC contract, section 2.42.2, states that MCOs must follow NCCI policies. HCA will be amending this section for 7/1/2020 to require NCCI policies *unless otherwise directed by HCA*.
- Why are we changing this? In summary, many of our higher intensity behavioral health services need to provide longer duration service encounters, such as groups or intakes. The Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs) on these specific codes are prohibiting the providers from doing so.
- As we move forward, we will be looking to both MCOs and providers to help HCA identify appropriate areas where NCCI edits should not apply.

For reference – The general link to Medicaid NCCI reference documents:

<https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/program-integrity/ncci/reference-documents/index.html>

All - Please email me at teresa.claycamp@hca.wa.gov with questions or concerns. If there any issues in implementation of the above requests, please let me know!

Thank you,
Teresa

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Pronouns: She, her, hers



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