

Blue Cross® and Blue Shield® of North Carolina (Blue Cross NC) | Healthy Blue + MedicareSM
(HMO-POS D-SNP)

Reimbursement Policy

Subject: Nurse Practitioner and Physician Assistant Services

Policy Number: G-20002

Policy Section: Administration

Last Approval Date: 09/06/2024

Effective Date: 11/01/2024

**** Visit our provider website for the most current version of the reimbursement policies. If you are using a printed version of this policy, please verify the information by going to <https://www.bluecrossnc.com/providers/blue-medicare-providers/healthy-blue-medicare>.

Disclaimer

These reimbursement policies serve as a guide to assist you in accurate claims submissions and to outline the basis for reimbursement if the service is covered by a member's benefit plan. The determination that a service, procedure, or item is covered under a member's benefit plan is not a determination that you will be reimbursed. Services must also meet authorization and medical necessity guidelines appropriate to the procedure and diagnosis, as well as to the member's state of residence.

Ensure that you use proper billing and submission guidelines, including industry-standard, compliant codes on all claim submissions. Services should be billed with Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) codes, Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes, and/or revenue codes. These codes denote the services and/or procedures performed and, when billed, must be fully supported in the medical record and/or office notes. Unless otherwise noted within the policy, our reimbursement policies apply to both participating and non-participating professional providers and facilities.

If appropriate coding/billing guidelines or current reimbursement policies are not followed, we may:

- Reject or deny the claim.
- Recover and/or recoup claim payment.
- Adjust the reimbursement to reflect the appropriate services and/or procedures performed.

<https://bluecrossnc.com/providers/networks-programs/blue-medicare/healthy-blue-medicare>

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Senior Health, DBA Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, is an HMO-POS D-SNP plan with a Medicare contract and a NC State Medicaid Agency Contract (SMAC). Enrollment in Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Senior Health depends upon contract renewal.

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NCBCBS-CR-RP-077918-25-CPN77141 July 2025



Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina
Healthy Blue + Medicare
Nurse Practitioner and Physician Assistant Services

These reimbursement policies may be superseded by mandates in provider, state, federal, or Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) contracts and/or requirements. We strive to minimize delays in policy implementation. If there is a delay, we reserve the right to recoup and/or recover claims payment to the effective date, in accordance with the policy. We reserve the right to review and revise these policies when necessary. When there is an update, we will publish the most current policy to the website.

Policy

Blue Cross NC allows reimbursement for services provided by nurse practitioner (NP) and physician assistant (PA) providers unless providers, state, federal, or CMS contracts and/or requirements indicate otherwise. Blue Cross NC allows reimbursement when the following criteria are met:

- The service is considered a physician's service.
- The service is within the scope of practice.
- A payment reduction is consistent with the CMS reimbursement.

The below physician's services are not considered for the payment reduction:

- Drugs
- Durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies (DMEPOS)
- Laboratory services and laboratory screening tests

Services completed by the NP or PA should be submitted with their own NPI as the rendering provider.

Related Coding

Standard correct coding applies

Policy History

09/06/2024	Review approved and effective: moved services not eligible for payment reduction to a stand-alone statement; added <i>Laboratory</i> to screening tests
12/19/2023	Review approved 12/19/2023 and effective 11/01/2024: removed <i>Preventive and Radiology services</i> from Physician Services; updated durable medical equipment to Durable medical equipment Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS)
04/11/2022	Biennial review approved: added language for clarity in policy body under Physician Services; policy template updated
01/01/2021	Initial approval and effective

References and Research Materials

This policy has been developed through consideration of the following:

- CMS
- State contract

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Definitions
General Reimbursement Policy Definitions
Related Policies and Materials
Modifiers 80, 81, 82, and AS: Assistant at Surgery
Modifier Usage

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