

Policy 1201

NHP/NHIC ~ Add On Codes

Purpose: This policy outlines Network Health Plan/Network Health Insurance Corporation (NHP/NHIC) reimbursement policy for add on codes.

Policy and Procedure: NHP/NHIC follows the American Medical Association (AMA), Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) guidelines for the reimbursement of “add-on” CPT and HCPCS codes.

The basis for add-on codes is to enable physicians or other health care professionals to separately identify a service that is performed in certain situations as an additional service or a commonly performed supplemental service complementary to the primary service/procedure.

According to CPT and CMS guidelines, add-on codes are always performed in addition to the primary service/procedure, and must never be reported as stand-alone codes. This applies to add-on services performed by the same provider or health care professional reporting the same Federal Tax Identification number, on the same date of service.

Key phrases to identify add-on codes include, but are not limited to, the following:

- *List separately in addition to;*
- *Each additional; and*
- *Done at time of other major procedure.*

Add-on codes are designated by the AMA with a plus symbol (+) icon. Appendix D of the most current CPT publication lists recognized Add-on Codes.

Additionally, add-on codes may have unbundled relationships consistent with and/or independent of the corresponding primary service/procedure code(s).

Note: The AMA and CPT provide coding guidelines specifying which add-on code should be reported in conjunction with a given primary procedure/service code. NHP/NHIC follows these guidelines and will only reimburse an add-on code when it has been reported with the appropriate primary service/procedure code.

This policy is not a guarantee of coverage or payment. The claim(s) will be denied if it does not meet with all the terms and provisions of the members Certificate of Coverage. Actual benefits will be determined when the claim(s) or bill(s) are submitted to NHP/NHIC. NHP/NHIC reserves the right to periodically review and update all claims policies and procedures.

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