

Understanding NCCI Edits

Overview

The National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) was developed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to promote national correct coding methodologies and to control improper coding leading to inappropriate payment. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires that all state Medicaid programs incorporate “NCCI methodologies” in their claims processing. NCCI edits have been in place for North Carolina Medicaid since 2011.

There are two major types of NCCI edits, Procedure-to-Procedure (PTP) edits and Medically Unlikely Edits (MUE). The purpose of the NCCI Procedure-to-Procedure (PTP) edits is to prevent improper payment when incorrect code combinations are reported, including Mutually Exclusive edits of code pairs that should not be reported together. The purpose of the NCCI MUE program is to prevent improper payments when services are reported with incorrect units of service.

Resources

The NCTracks Call Center and Operations staff cannot instruct providers on how to code a claim. If a claim is denied for an NCCI edit, providers are encouraged to review the medical record and determine if additional information is appropriate or needed, such as a modifier. There are several resources available to assist providers with understanding NCCI edits and their use in the NC Medicaid program, including:

CMS - National Correct Coding Initiative Edits

www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Data-and-Systems/National-Correct-Coding-Initiative.html

NC Division of Medical Assistance – Correct Coding – NCCI and Additional Edits

<http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/provider/ncci.htm>

NC Medicaid Modifier Special Bulletin

<https://dma.ncdhhs.gov/document/april-1999-special-medicaid-bulletin-modifiers>

Resources are also available from provider organizations and commercial entities, including:

AAPC - www.aapc.com

CodeitRightOnline - www.codeitrightonline.com

CorrectCoder - www.correctcoder.com

Find-A-Code - www.findacode.com

Optum360 – www.optumcoding.com

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