

Payment Policy | After Hours: Special Services, Procedures and Reports



EFFECTIVE DATE: 04|01|2010

POLICY LAST UPDATED: 05|16|2018

OVERVIEW:

Special services, procedures, and reports codes provide the reporting physician (or other qualified healthcare professional) with the means of identifying the completion of these special reports and services as an adjunct to the basic services rendered. The specific CPT code number assigned indicates the special circumstances under which a basic procedure is performed.

MEDICAL CRITERIA:

Not applicable.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION:

Not applicable

POLICY:

BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial

Any urgently scheduled visit rendered outside of the routine hours of 8AM-5PM*, Monday through Friday (except holidays), may have 99050 added. Code 99050 may not be reported for routine or preventative services. "Urgently scheduled" would typically be the same day or within 24 hours of the request for an acute problem or acute exacerbation of chronic illness.

* Note: While physician offices have varying hours, BCBSRI considers normal office hours to be between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Claims for services requested after regularly scheduled office hours, in addition to basic services (e.g., services requested on Sundays and holidays, 99050), are reimbursed to pediatricians, family practitioners, internal medicine, mid-level practitioners (PCP specialties) and OB/GYN physicians functioning as PCPs related to specific lines of business.

When filing code 99050, mid-level practitioners (PCP Specialties) will be reimbursed according to their appropriate fee schedule for this service.

Urgent care centers, emergency room providers, general practitioners (GPs) and others not listed above are excluded from receiving the additional reimbursement.

COVERAGE:

Benefits may vary between groups and contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Benefit Booklet, Evidence of Coverage or Subscriber Agreement for applicable benefits/coverage.

CODING:

The following service is covered and separately reimbursed when filed with 99201-99215 only

99050: Services provided in the office at times other than regularly scheduled office hours, or days when the office is normally closed (e.g., holidays, Sundays, or Saturdays), in addition to basic service

The following services are covered but not separately reimbursed:

99051: Service(s) provided in the office during regularly scheduled evening, weekend, or holiday office hours, in addition to basic service

99053: Service(s) provided between 10:00pm and 8:00AM at 24 hour facility; in addition to basic service

99056: Service(s) typically provided in the office, provided out of the office at the request of the patient, in addition to basic service

99058: Service(s) provided on an emergency basis in the office, which disrupts other scheduled office services, in addition to basic service (as of May 1, 2008)

99060: Service(s) provided on an emergency basis, out of the office, which disrupts other scheduled office services, in addition to basic service

RELATED POLICIES:

None

PUBLISHED:

Policy Update, August 2018

Policy Update, August 2017

Policy Update, Feb 2003

Policy Update, Oct 2004

Policy Update, Jan 2006

Policy Update, Feb 2008

Provider Update, Dec 2009

Provider Update, Nov 2010

Provider Update, Dec 2010 (Correction)

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