



Incident To

Reimbursement Policy ID: RPC.0014.72AC

Recent review date: 02/2025

Next review date: 12/2025

AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania Community HealthChoices reimbursement policies and their resulting edits are based on guidelines from established industry sources, such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the American Medical Association (AMA), state and federal regulatory agencies, and medical specialty professional societies. Reimbursement policies are intended as a general reference and do not constitute a contract or other guarantee of payment. AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania Community HealthChoices may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying its policies to services provided in a particular case and may modify its policies at any time.

In making claim payment determinations, the health plan also uses coding terminology and methodologies based on accepted industry standards, including Current Procedural Terminology (CPT); the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS); and the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM), and other relevant sources. Other factors that may affect payment include medical record documentation, legislative or regulatory mandates, a provider's contract, a member's eligibility in receiving covered services, submission of clean claims, and other health plan policies, and other relevant factors. These factors may supplement, modify, or in some cases supersede reimbursement policies.

This reimbursement policy applies to all health care services billed on a CMS-1500 form or its electronic equivalent, or when billed on a UB-04 form or its electronic equivalent.

Policy Overview

“Incident to” allows outpatient services that are furnished by nonphysician providers to be billed under a physician’s national provider identification (NPI) number. The services must be an integral, although incidental, part of the physician’s personal professional services, and they must be performed under the physician’s direct supervision.

Exceptions

N/A

Reimbursement Guidelines

AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania Community HealthChoices covers “incident to” billing for nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and certified nurse midwives. “Incident to” outpatient services that are furnished by nonphysician providers may be billed under the supervising physician’s national provider identification (NPI) number when services meet “incident to” criteria including direct personal supervision. Direct personal

supervision means the supervising health care provider is present in the location of service and immediately available to provide assistance and direction, throughout the time the nonphysician provider is performing the services.

Nurse Practitioners and Certified Nurse Midwives enrolled with PAMA can bill as the rendering provider for covered services.

Definitions

Incident to
“Incident to” a physician’s professional services means that the services or supplies are furnished as an integral, although incidental, part of the physician’s personal professional services in the course of diagnosis or treatment of an injury or illness.

Edit Sources

- I. Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) and associated publications and services.
- II. International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM).
- III. Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS).
- IV. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
- V. The National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI).
- VI. Edith K. Weber, “Medicare Compliance Basics: “Incident to” Billing,” Foley Blogs, February 16, 2023, <https://www.foley.com/insights/publications/2023/02/medicare-compliance-basics-incident-billing/>.
- VII. Pennsylvania Medicaid Fee Schedule(s).

Attachments

N/A

Associated Policies

N/A

Policy History

02/2025	Reimbursement Policy Committee Approval
09/2024	Updated reimbursement guidelines
08/2024	Reimbursement Policy Committee Approval
04/2024	Revised preamble
08/2023	Removal of policy implemented by AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania Community HealthChoices from Policy History section
01/2023	Template Revised <ul style="list-style-type: none">Revised preambleRemoval of Applicable Claim Types tableCoding section renamed to Reimbursement GuidelinesAdded Associated Policies section