



Coding Policy Alerts

February 2024

This is a special edition of Providence Health Plan's Coding Policy Alerts for **February 2024**.

CODING POLICY UPDATE

Coding Policy 13.0 (Bundled or Adjunct Services)	<p>CPT code 99459 was published by the American Medical Association (AMA) to report, “Pelvic examination (List separately in addition to code for primary procedure).” The AMA published this code as an add-on code to be used in conjunction with illness-related office E/M codes and preventive services E/M codes. It is intended to account for four minutes of staff time spent chaperoning a pelvic exam. CPT code 99459 has been added to Coding Policy 13.0 (Bundled or Adjunct Services) for all lines of business effective 1/1/2024.</p> <p>Medicare does not pay preventive services, but they do cover pelvic examinations for women, so they have given this code status of “A,” or “active.” Unlike Medicare, PHP does pay preventive services. The CPT description for preventive services codes (CPT codes 99381-99387 and 99391-99397) shows these codes include “an age and gender appropriate” examination, which includes a pelvic examination for a woman. The practice expense relative value unit (RVU) of existing Evaluation and Management (E/M) codes, including preventive services codes, accounts for clinical staff time. It is not consistent with RVU pricing to separate the staff time spent chaperoning a pelvic exam from other staff time included in E/M services. Therefore, PHP considers payment for CPT code 99459 to be included in payment for E/M services performed and will not pay CPT code 99459 separately.</p>
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