

Payment Policy Change: Evaluation and Management Services by Physicians in Same Group Practice

Starting October 1, 2020, only one payment will be permitted for an evaluation and management (E&M) service when it is billed for the same patient, by more than one physician in the same specialty, within the same group.

When multiple E&M services are reported on the same date of service, only the first claim received will be allowed. A claim for additional E&M services will be denied with the following message:

“Multiple office visits performed on the same date of service, by a provider with the same specialty within the same physician group.”

Policy Change Supported by CMS Guidelines

This policy change is consistent with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) guidelines from the Medicare Claims Processing Manual which states, “Physicians in the same group practice who are in the same specialty must bill and be paid as though they were a single physician. If more than one evaluation and management service is provided on the same day to the same patient by the same physician or more than one physician in the same specialty in the same group, only one evaluation and management service may be reported. Instead of billing separately, the physicians should select a level of service representative of the combined visits and submit the appropriate code for that level.”

Impacted Health Plans

- BlueCare HMO (Health Options, Inc.)
- MyBlue
- BlueChoice (Preferred Patient Care)
- BlueSelect
- BlueOptions (Network Blue)
- Traditional Indemnity plans

This change also applies to BlueCard[®] host, State Account and Federal Employee Program[®] (FEP) claims.

For more information about the *Evaluation and Management Services by Physicians in Same Group Practice* payment policy and other Florida Blue payment policies, go to floridablue.com and select Providers > Tools & Resources > Medical & Pharmacy Policies and Guidelines > Payment Policies.

If you have questions about this change, please call the Provider Contact Center at (800) 727-2227.