



June 29, 2011

Changes to billing procedures for CT of abdomen and pelvis during the same session

Dear AmeriHealth Mercy Facility Billing Manager,

AmeriHealth Mercy's claims payment system utilizes the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) edits. NCCI will edit pairs of CPT or HCPCS Level II codes that are not separately payable except under certain circumstances. CMS implemented a new NCCI edit that prevents certain CPT codes from being billed together when a provider performs a CT of abdomen/pelvis during the same session. Effective January 1, 2011 new combination codes were added to the national code set, which are now to be used. AmeriHealth Mercy has updated our system to reflect this change and the following changes are effective immediately.

Former combination codes	As of January 1, 2011 replaced with
74150+72192	74176 (Computed tomography, abdomen and pelvis; without contrast material)
74160+72193	74177 (Computed tomography, abdomen and pelvis; with contrast material(s))
74170+72194	74178 (Computed tomography, abdomen and pelvis; without contrast material in one or both body regions, followed by contrast material(s) and further sections in one or body regions)

With this change, providers who submitted claims with the combination codes for dates of service January 1, 2011 will need to submit a corrected claim using the corresponding new code. Upon receipt of the corrected claim, previous payments made under the combination codes will be retracted and payment will be processed under the new codes. To be considered for payment providers have 365 days from the date of service to submit corrected claims.

For providers who billed with any of the new codes for dates of service January 1, 2011 and after and received a denial due to the code not being on the fee schedule, no action is required. AmeriHealth Mercy will identify and reprocess these claims.

Thank you for your continued participation in our network and your commitment to our members. Please contact AmeriHealth Mercy's Provider Services Department at 800-521-6007 or your Contract Representative if you have any questions regarding this billing requirement change.

Sincerely,

Stephen E. Orndorff
Associate Vice President
Provider Contracting and Community Affairs