

In the event of a conflict between a Clinical Payment and Coding Policy and any plan document under which a member is entitled to Covered Services, the plan document will govern. Plan documents include but are not limited to, Certificates of Health Care Benefits, benefit booklets, Summary Plan Descriptions and other coverage documents.

In the event of a conflict between a Clinical Payment and Coding Policy and any provider contract pursuant to which a provider participates in and/or providers Covered Services to eligible member(s) and/or plans, the provider contract will govern.

Providers are responsible for accurately, completely and legibly documenting the services performed including any preoperative workup. The billing office is expected to submit claims for services rendered using valid codes from the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) approved code sets. Claims should be coded appropriately according to industry-standard coding guidelines including, but not limited to: Uniform Billing (UB) Editor, American Medical Association (AMA), Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®), CPT® Assistant, Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS), National Drug Codes (NDC), Diagnosis Related Group (DRG) guidelines, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) National Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) Policy Manual, CCI table edits and other CMS guidelines. Claims are subject to the code auditing protocols for services/procedures billed.

## **Coordinated Home Care/Private Duty Nursing Policy Guideline**

**Policy Number: CPCP005**

**Version 6.0**

**Clinical Payment and Coding Policy Committee Approval Date: 09/06/2019**

**Plan Effective Date: January 1, 2020 (Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas Only)**

### **Description**

The purpose of this policy is to provide a guideline for various types of coordinated home health care and appropriate code sets for claim submissions. Coordinated home care services consist of skilled and unskilled (custodial) services. These services can be long-term or short-term depending on the patient need. The home health services discussed in this policy may not be limited to Covered Services. References to services herein are not a guarantee or representation of coverage. Providers are urged to refer to the state and federal mandates for eligible coverage and to the member's benefit for home health care services. Health care providers are expected to exercise independent judgment in providing care to patients. This policy is not intended to impact care decisions or medical practice.



**Definitions:**

**Coordinated Home Care:** Organized skilled intermittent patient care initiated by a hospital or other inpatient facility to facilitate in the discharge and planning of its patients into home care under orders of a qualified physician.

**Custodial or Unskilled Care:** Personal care that does not require the technical skills, professional training and clinical assessment ability of medical and/or nursing personnel to be safely and effectively performed and which supports the patient's care and activities of daily living (ADLs). Services are generally non-medical.

**Home Health Care:** Health care services provided to a patient who is at home due to a sickness or injury requiring services from a skilled and licensed professional on an intermittent or part-time basis.

**Intermittent home care:** Part-time skilled nursing care provided in the home or inpatient facility setting for fewer than seven days a week or less than 8 hours a day for periods of twenty-one (21) days or less. A member must have a medically predictable recurring need for skilled nursing services.

**Private Duty Nursing (PDN):** Skilled nursing services for patients requiring more individual and continuous care than is available from a visiting nurse providing intermittent home care. Services which can be provided by a medical assistant, nurse's aide, home health aide or other non-nurse level caregiver are not considered as PDN.

**Respite Care:** Short-term, temporary relief to a primary or usual caregiver. The caregiver is generally a family member.

**Skilled Care:** Medical care provided in the home or inpatient facility setting and may only be provided by or under the supervision of a skilled or licensed medical professional. Services require the technical skills and professional training of a licensed professional nurse or rehabilitation therapist.

**Reimbursement Information:**

Claim reimbursement is limited to Covered services which meet medical necessity and for services which do not exceed the defined member benefit for days or hours of coverage.

Services associated with home health care may include but are not limited to, the following set of codes. Coverage for these codes is dependent upon the member benefit, provider contract and state or federal mandates.

HCPCS CODE	DESCRIPTION
S9122	Home health aide or certified nurse assistant, providing care in the home; per hour.
S9123	Nursing care, in the home; by a registered nurse, per hour (use for general nursing care only, not to be used when CPT codes 99500-99602 can be used)
S9124	Nursing care, in the home; by a licensed practical nurse, per hour



HCPCS CODE	DESCRIPTION
<b>T1002</b>	RN services, up to 15 minutes
<b>T1003</b>	LPN/LVN services, up to 15 minutes
<b>T1031</b>	Nursing care, in the home, by a licensed practical nurse, per diem

Example, if a member receives nursing care for one-hour Monday, Wednesday and Friday (total of three hours in one week/seven-day period) this is considered intermittent care and should be billed for three units of HCPCS code(s) S9123 or S9124.

Coverage for the below code(s) is dependent upon the members benefit, provider contract and state or federal mandates. Codes associated with PDN include, but are not limited to, the following:

HCPCS CODE	DESCRIPTION
<b>T1000</b>	Private duty/independent nursing service(s), licensed, up to 15 minutes

Example, if a member needs continuous nurse care for half a day for five days (twelve hours per day totaling sixty hours for five days) this is considered PDN and should be billed with 240 units of HCPCS code T1000.

The plan may request additional documentation from the PDN provider to support the medical necessity of services. Additional documentation upon the initial request, recertification or revision request includes but is not limited to, nurse progress notes, medication administration records, seizure logs and ventilator logs.

**Custodial Care (Medical Policy ADM1001.014)**

Custodial care primarily involves assisting patients in ADLS and for personal comfort or convenience and is generally not a covered benefit. Some example of custodial care may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Assistance with meal feeding, bathing, dressing and the use of the bathroom
- Assistance with walking or moving to and from a chair or bed
- Assistance with food preparation and eating
- Supervision of distribution, preparation and administration of medication

Refer to the current AMA CPT manual and/or HCPCS book for the appropriate custodial CPT/ HCPCS codes. Coverage for these codes is dependent upon member benefits, provider contracts and state or federal mandates.

**Additional Information**

- Refer to the plan’s provider website for home health contract base compensation schedules
- Verify the patient’s maximum benefits
- Appropriate revenue codes for home health services should be submitted on a UB-04 form
- Claim submissions should contain the appropriate revenue code and CPT/HCPCS code combination

**References:**

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**Policy Update History:**

Approval Date	Description
10/31/2018	New policy
09/06/2019	Annual Review and Title update
11/08/2019	Included Addendum


**Addendum: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas**

Texas Insurance Code, Title 8., Subtitle E., Chapter 1351 for Home Health Services, Section 1351.006 states the following:

Sec. 1351.006 Reimbursement for Home Health Services: Physician Certification Required. A group health benefit plan issuer may not provide reimbursement for home health services provided under the plan unless the attending physician certifies that hospitalization or confinement in a skilled facility would be required if a treatment plan for home health care were not provided.

<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/IN/htm/IN.1351.htm> 

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