28

28 Physician

Physician's services, whether furnished in the office, the recipient's home, a hospital, a skilled nursing facility, or elsewhere, refer to services provided by a physician:

- Within the scope of practice of medicine or osteopathy as defined by state law; and
- By or under the personal supervision of an individual licensed under state law to practice medicine of osteopathy.

The policy provisions for physicians can be found in the *Alabama Medicaid Agency Administrative Code,* Chapter 6.

28.1 Enrollment

HP enrolls physicians and issues provider contracts to applicants who meet the licensure and/or certification requirements of the state of Alabama, the Code of Federal Regulations, the *Alabama Medicaid Agency Administrative Code*, and the *Alabama Medicaid Provider Manual*. For the purpose of enrollment, a physician is defined as: a physician who is fully licensed and possesses a current license to practice medicine.

HP also enrolls Physician Assistants (PA), Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners (CRNP), Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA), and Anesthesiology Assistants (AA) who are employed by a Medicaid enrolled physician. Physician-employed includes physicians practicing in an independent practice or in a group practice relationship.

Refer to Chapter 38, Anesthesiology, for more information on CRNA and AA services.

Refer to Chapter 2, Becoming a Medicaid Provider, for general enrollment instructions and information. Failure to provide accurate and truthful information or intentional misrepresentation might result in action ranging from denial of application to permanent exclusion.

Federal requirements mandate providers re-enroll periodically with the Alabama Medicaid program. Providers will be notified when they are scheduled to re-enroll. Failure to re-enroll and provide appropriate documentation to complete enrollment will result in an end-date being placed on the provider file. Once a provider file has been closed for failure to timely re-enroll, providers will have to submit a new application for enrollment.

National Provider Identifier, Type, and Specialty

A provider who contracts with Alabama Medicaid as a physician is added to the Medicaid system with the National Provider Identifiers provided at the time application is made. Appropriate provider specialty codes are assigned to enable the provider to submit requests and receive reimbursements for physician-related claims.

NOTE:
The 10-digit NPI is required when filing a claim.

Physicians are assigned a provider type of 31 (Physician). Physician-Employed Nurse Practitioners are assigned a provider type of 09 or Physician-Employed Physician Assistants are assigned a provider type of 10 and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists and Anesthesiology Assistants are assigned a provider type of 09(CRNA).

Valid specialties for physicians and physician-employed practitioners are listed below:

Specialty	***Code***
Allergist	310
Anesthesiologist	311
Anesthesiology Assistant	101
Cardiac surgery	312
Cardiovascular disease	313
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist	094
Cochlear implant team	740—See Chap. 10, Audiology/Hearing Services
Colon and rectal surgery	750
Dermatology	314
EENT	760
Emergency medicine Practitioner	315
Endocrinology	770
EPSDT	560
Family practice	316
Gastroenterology	317
General practice	318
General surgery	319
Geriatrics	320
Hand surgery	321
Hematology	780
Infectious diseases	790
Internal medicine	800
Mammography	292
Neonatology	323
Nephrology	630
Neurological surgery	325
Neurology	326
Nuclear medicine	327
Nutrition	230
Obstetrics/Gynecology	328
Oncology	329
Ophthalmology	330
Oral and maxillofacial surgery	272
Orthopedic	810
Orthopedic surgery	331
Otorhinolaryngology	332
Pathology	333
Pediatrics	345
Physician-Employed Nurse Practitioner	093
Physician-Employed Physician Assistant	100
Plastic, reconstructive, cosmetic surgery	337
Primary care provider (not a screening provider but can refer patients)	720
Proctologist	338

Specialty	*Code*
Psychiatrist	339
Pulmonary disease Specialist	340
Radiology	341
Rheumatology	830
Telemedicine	931
Thoracic surgeon	342
Urologist	343
Vascular surgery	313

Enrollment Policy for Physicians

Providers (in-state and out-of-state) who meet enrollment requirements are eligible to participate in the Alabama Medicaid Program. The PA or CRNP must send a copy of the prescriptive authority granted by the licensing board in order for the PA or CRNP to be added to the Provider License File for the purpose of reimbursing the pharmacist for the prescriptions written by the PA or CRNP. This copy must be sent to HP Provider Enrollment, P.O. Box 241685, AL 36124-1685.

HP will not enroll physicians having limited licenses unless complete information as to the limitations and reasons are submitted in writing to the Provider Enrollment Unit for review and consideration for enrollment.

28.2 Benefits and Limitations

This section describes program-specific benefits and limitations. Refer to Chapter 3, Verifying Recipient Eligibility, for general benefit information and limitations.

Physicians are expected to render medically necessary services to Medicaid patients in the same manner and under the same standards as for their private patients, and bill the Alabama Medicaid Agency their usual and customary fee.

Office visits are limited to one per day, per recipient, per provider. For purposes of this limitation, a physician or physician of the same specialty and subspecialty from the same group practice are considered a single provider. Annual office visit benefit limits are 14 office visits per calendar year.

Medicaid will no longer require physicians enrolled in and providing services through a **residency** training program be assigned a pseudo Medicaid license number to be used on prescriptions written for Medicaid recipients. Effective for claims submitted on or after January 1, 2012, interns and non-licensed residents must use the NPI or license number of the teaching, admitting, or supervising physician.

Written medication prescriptions should have a typed or printed name of the prescriber on the prescription and the handwriting must be legible. Pharmacists **must have the physician's license number** prior to billing for prescriptions. Pharmacies shall use the correct physician license number when submitting a pharmacy claim to Medicaid.

Supervising physicians may bill for services rendered to Medicaid recipients by residents enrolled in and providing services through (as part of) an approved residency training program. The following rules shall apply to physicians supervising residents as part of an approved residency training program:

a. The supervising physician shall sign and date the admission history and physical progress notes written by the resident.

b. The supervising physician shall review all treatment plans and medication orders written by the resident.

c. The supervising physician shall be available by phone or pager.

d. The supervising physician shall designate another physician to supervise the resident in his/her absence.

e. The supervising physician shall not delegate a task to the resident when regulations specify that the physician perform it personally or when such delegation is prohibited by state law or the facility's policy.

Payments from Medicaid funds can be made only to physicians who provide the services; therefore, no reimbursement can be made to patients who may personally pay for the service rendered.

The physician agrees when billing Medicaid for a service that the physician will accept as payment in full, the amount paid by Medicaid for that service, plus any cost-sharing amount to be paid by the recipient, and that no additional charge will be made. Conditional collections from patients, made before Medicaid pays, which are to be refunded after Medicaid pays, are not permissible. The physician may bill the patient, in addition to the cost-sharing fee, for services rendered when benefit limitations are exhausted for the year or when the service is a Medicaid non-covered benefit. However, the provider (or their staff) must advise each patient prior to services being rendered when Medicaid payment will not be accepted, and the patient will be responsible for the bill. If a provider routinely accepts a Medicaid assignment, he or she may not bill Medicaid or the recipient for a service he or she did not provide, i.e., missed or canceled appointment.

A hospital-based physician-employed by and paid by a hospital may not bill Medicaid for services performed for which the hospital is reimbursed. A hospital-based physician shall bill the Medicaid Program on a CMS-1500, Health Insurance Claim Form or assign their billing rights to the hospital, which shall bill the Medicaid Program on a CMS-1500 form. A hospital-based physician who is not employed by and paid by a hospital may bill Medicaid using a CMS-1500 claim form.

A physician enrolled in a residency training program and whose practice is limited to the institution in which that resident is placed shall not bill Medicaid for services performed therein for which the institution is reimbursed through the hospitals' cost reports. For tracking purposes, these physicians will be assigned pseudo Medicaid license numbers.

Hospital-based physicians are reimbursed under the same general system as is used in Medicare. Bills for services rendered are submitted as follows:

- All hospital-based physicians, including emergency room physicians, radiologists, and pathologists, will bill Medicaid on a CMS-1500 claim form, or assign their billing rights to the hospital, which shall bill Medicaid on a CMS-1500 claim form.
- Physician services personally rendered for individual patients will be paid only on a reasonable charge basis (i.e., claims submitted under an individual NPI on a physician claim form). This includes services provided by a radiologist and/or pathologist.

- Reasonable charge services are: 1) personally furnished for a patient by a physician; 2) ordinarily require performance by a physician and; 3) contribute to the diagnosis or treatment of an individual patient.

Off Site Mobile Physician's Services shall comply with all Medicaid rules and regulations as set forth in the State Plan, Alabama Medicaid Administrative Code, and Code of Federal Regulations including but not limited to the following requirements:

(a) Shall provide ongoing, follow-up, and treatment and/or care for identified conditions,

(b) Shall provide ongoing access to care and services through the maintenance of a geographically accessible office with regular operating business hours within the practicing county or within 15 miles of the county in which the service was rendered,

(c) Shall provide continuity and coordination of care for Medicaid recipients through reporting and communication with the Primary Medical Provider,

(d) Shall maintain a collaborative effort between the off-site mobile physician and local physicians and community resources. A matrix of responsibility shall be developed between the parties and available upon enrollment as an off-site mobile physician,

(e) Shall provide for attainable provider and recipient medical record retrieval,

(f) Shall maintain written agreements for referrals, coordinate needed services, obtain prior authorizations and necessary written referrals for services prescribed. All medical conditions identified shall be referred and coordinated, for example:

  (i) Eyeglasses,

  (ii) Comprehensive Audiological services,

  (iii) Comprehensive Opthalamological services,

  (iv) Patient 1st and EPSDT Referrals,

(g) Shall not bill Medicaid for services which are offered to anyone for free. Provider shall utilize a Medicaid approved sliding fee scale based on Federal Poverty Guidelines,

(h) Shall ensure that medical record documentation supports the billing of Medicaid services, and

(i) Shall obtain signed and informed consent prior to treatment.

NOTE:

If a provider routinely accepts Medicaid assignments, he/she may not bill Medicaid or the recipient for a service he/she did not provide, i.e., "no call" or "no show".

Locum Tenens and Substitute Physician Under Reciprocal Billing Arrangements

It is common practice for physicians to retain substitute physicians to take over their professional practices when the regular physicians are absent for reasons such as illness, pregnancy, vacation, or continuing medical education, and for the regular physician to bill and receive payment for the substitute physician's services as though he/she performed them. The substitute physician generally has no practice of his/her own and moves from area to area as needed. The regular physician generally pays the substitute physician a fixed amount per diem, with the substitute physician having the status of an independent contractor rather than of an employee. The substitute physicians are generally called "locum tenens" physicians.

Reimbursement may be made to a physician submitting a claim for services furnished by another physician in the event there is a reciprocal arrangement. The regular physician shall identify the services as substitute physician services by entering HCPCS modifier **Q5** (Service Furnished by a Substitute Physician under a Reciprocal Arrangement) or HCPCS modifier **Q6** (Service Furnished by a Locum Tenens Physician) after the procedure code. The reciprocal arrangement may not exceed 14 days in the case of an informal arrangement. Effective for claims submitted on or after June 15, 2012, the reciprocal arrangement may not exceed 60 continuous days in the case of an arrangement involving per diem or other fee-for-time compensation. Providers participating in a reciprocal arrangement must be enrolled with the Alabama Medicaid Agency. The regular physician should keep a record on file of each service provided by the substitute physician and make this record available to Medicaid upon request. Claims will be subject to post-payment review. Please refer to section 28.5.3 Procedure Codes and Modifiers for information regarding modifiers Q5 and Q6.

28.2.1 Physician-Employed Practitioner Services

Medicaid payment may be made for the professional services of the following physician-employed practitioners:

- Physician Assistants (PAs)
- Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners (CRNPs)

Nurse Practitioner is defined as a Registered Professional Nurse who is currently licensed to practice in the state, who meets the applicable State of Alabama requirements governing the qualifications of nurse practitioners.

Physician Assistant means a person who meets the applicable State of Alabama requirements governing the qualifications for assistants to primary care physicians.

All services requiring additional education and training beyond the scope of practice billed by a CRNP/PA must be documented in the approved collaborative agreement from the Board of Medical Examiners (BME) and the Alabama Board of Nursing (ABN) between the practitioner and physician. The only exception is for those "routine" services <u>within the scope of practice</u> approved by the applicable licensing and governing boards. Services billed outside a CRNP/PA scope of practice and/or collaborative agreement are subject to post-payment review.

Medicaid will make payment for services of Physician Assistants (PAs) and Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners (CRNPs) who are legally authorized to furnish services and who render the services under the supervision of an employing physician with payment made to the employing physician. Medicaid will not make payment to the PA or CRNP. Generally, CRNPs and PAs are reimbursed at 80% of the allowed amount for all services except lab and injectables, which should pay at 100%.

The employing physician must be a Medicaid provider in active status.

The PA or CRNP **must enroll with the Alabama Medicaid Agency** and receive a NPI number with the employing physician as the payee.

Covered services furnished by the PA or CRNP must be billed under the PA's or CRNP's name and NPI.

The covered services for PAs and CRNPs are limited to injectable drugs, laboratory services in which the laboratory is CLIA certified to perform, and the CPT codes identified in Appendix O, CRNP & PA Services.

The office visits performed by the PA or CRNP count against the recipient's yearly benefit limitation.

The PA or CRNP may make physician-required visits to nursing facilities.

The PA or CRNP may not make physician-required inpatient visits to hospitals or other institutional settings to qualify for payment to the physician or to satisfy current regulations as physician visits.

CRNP and PA services have been expanded. Please refer to Appendix O for a list of covered services and references. For more specific information on coverage, you may call the Provider Assistance Center at 1-800-688-7989.

The employing-physician need not be physically present with the PA or CRNP when the services are being rendered to the recipient; however, the physician must be immediately available to the PA or CRNP for direct communication by radio, telephone, or telecommunication.

The PA's or CRNP's employing physician is responsible for the professional activities of the PA or CRNP and for assuring that the services provided are medically necessary and appropriate for the patient.

There shall be no independent, unsupervised practice by PAs or CRNPs.

28.2.2 Covered Services

In general, Medicaid covers physician services if the services meet the following conditions:

- Considered medically necessary by the attending physician
- Designated by procedure codes in the Physicians' Current Procedural Terminology (CPT), or HCPCS. This table contains details on selected covered services.
- Consistent with the implementation of the mandated Medicaid NCCI edits effective November 9, 2010. Refer to this link, http://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Data-and-Systems/National-Correct-Coding-Initiative.html for more information regarding NCCI.

Abdominoplasty	Medical necessity criteria must be met and Prior Authorization obtained, or the procedure will be considered cosmetic and will not be covered. See Chapter 4, Obtaining Prior Authorization.
Add-on Code	Add-on Code definition in the CPT is recognized and allowed for payment with the appropriate primary code.
Administration Fee	Please refer to Appendix H, Medicaid Physician Administered Drugs, section H.1 (Policy) for information regarding office visits, chemotherapy, and administration fees. When an Evaluation and Management service is provided *and* a Drug Administration code (96372, 96373, 96374, 96375, and 96376) is provided at the same time, the E&M code, Drug Administration Code, and the HCPCs Code for the drug may be billed. A **Significant Separately Identifiable Service** must be performed in conjunction with the Drug Administration code for consideration of payment for the E&M Code. A **Modifier 25** must be appended to the E&M service for recognition as a "**Significant Separately Identifiable Service".** Medical Record documentation must support the medical necessity of the visit as well as the level of care provided. However, when no **Significant Separately Identifiable** E&M service is actually provided at the time of a Drug Administration, an E&M code should not be billed. In this instance, the Drug Administration Code and the HCPCs Code for the drug may be billed. An example of this is routine monthly injections like B-12, iron, or Depo-Provera given on a regular basis without a **Significant Separately Identifiable** E&M service being provided. These services will be subject to post payment review. Please refer to Appendix A, Well Child Check-Up, Section A.6.1 (Fees) for information regarding the use of designated VFC codes for billing immunization administration fee(s).
Allergy Treatments	Please refer to Appendix H, Medicaid Physician Administered Drugs for information.
Anesthesia	Anesthesia is covered. See Chapter 38, Anesthesiology.
Artificial Eyes	Artificial eyes must be prescribed by a physician. Refer to Chapter 15, Eye Care Services for specific coverage information.
Bariatric Procedures	Considered cosmetic unless specific medical criteria are met and with Prior Authorization. Bariatric surgical procedures are considered for Medicaid eligible recipients between 18 and 64 years of age, effective June 1, 2009. See Chapter 4, Obtaining Prior Authorization.
Breathing or Inhalation Treatments	Breathing or inhalation treatments are a covered service. Any medication provided during a breathing treatment (e.g., Albuterol) is considered a component of the treatment charge. EXCEPTION: See Appendix H related to coverage of J2545 Pentamidine Isethionate.
Cardiac Catheterization	Cardiac Catheterization codes may be subject to the multiple procedure/surgery reductions.
Cerumen Removal	CPT code 69210 is a covered service. The key points for using this code are as follow: 1) Ear lavage along is insufficient : the ear wax must be removed by curette or instrumentation; 2) The billing provider must perform the service, not the nurse or medical assistant: 3) The cerumen must be impacted, which means it must have one of these four characteristics: a) Visual considerations: Cerumen impairs exam of clinically significant portions of the external auditory canal tympanic membrane, or middle ear condition; b.) Qualitative considerations: Extremely hard, dry, irritative cerumen causing symptoms such as pain, itching, hearing loss, etc; c) Inflammatory considerations: Associated with foul odor, infection, or dermatitis; d) Quantitative considerations: Obstructive, copious cerumen that cannot be removed without magnification and multiple instrumentations requiring physician skills. If the ear wax is not impacted, meeting the criteria above, it is not separately reported.

Added: CPT

Deleted: ~~which requires skill and use of forceps, suction, or cerumen spoon~~

Deleted: ~~Exception: When a simple…by the physician~~

Chemotherapy Administration	When an Evaluation and Management service is provided *and* a Hydration, Therapeutic, Prophylactic, Diagnostic and Chemotherapy Administration code is provided at the same time, the E&M code, Drug Administration Code, and the HCPCs Code for the drug may be billed. A **Significant Separately Identifiable Service** must be performed in conjunction with these administration codes for consideration of payment for the Evaluation and Management Code. A **Modifier 25** must be appended to the E & M service for recognition as a **"Significant Separately Identifiable Service".** Procedure Code 99211 will not be allowed with a modifier 25 or when billed in conjunction with the above administration codes. Medical record documentation must support the medical necessity and level of care of the visit. These services are subject to post payment review.
CT Scans	CT scans are covered as medically necessary. Effective for dates of service March 2, 2009, and thereafter, CT scans require prior authorization for coverage. See Chapter 4, Obtaining Prior Authorization, Chapter 19, Hospital and Chapter 22, Independent Radiology.
Chiropractors	Chiropractic services are covered only for QMB recipients and for services referred directly as a result of an EPSDT screening.
Chromosomal Studies	Medicaid can pay for these studies on prospective mothers in an effort to identify conditions that could result in the birth of an abnormal child.
Circumcision	Circumcision of newborns is a covered service. If medically necessary, non-newborn circumcision is covered. These services will be subject to post payment review.
Dental Varnishing	Refer to Chapter 13, Dentist for specific coverage information.
Developmental Testing Intensive Level (Multi-disciplinary Team only)	Refer to Appendix A, Well Child Check-Up (EPSDT) for specific coverage information.
Diet Instruction	Diet instruction performed by a physician is considered part of a routine visit.
Drugs	Refer to Appendix H, Physician Drug List for coverage information.
Endovenous **Laser** Ablation of Varicose Veins, Endoluminal **Radiofrequency** Ablation of Saphenous Varicose Veins, Sclerotherapy, and Ambulatory phlebectomy	The following procedure codes require prior authorization before services are rendered to a recipient: 1. Procedure codes**36478** (Endovenous ablation therapy of incompetent vein, extremity, inclusive of all imaging guidance and monitoring, percutaneous, **laser**; first vein treated) and **Add on** code **36479** (second and subsequent veins treated in a single extremity, each through separate access sites) should only be billed along with the primary code (36478). 2. Procedure codes **36475** (Endovenous ablation therapy of incompetent vein, extremity, inclusive of all imaging guidance and monitoring, percutaneous, **radiofrequency**; first vein treated, and **Add on** code **36476** (second and subsequent veins treated in a single extremity, each through separate access sites) should only be billed along with the primary code (36475). 3. **Effective 1/1/2013**, the following procedure codes will require prior authorization: **36470** (Injection of **sclerosing** solution; single vein), **36471** (multiple veins, same leg), **37765** (Stab **phlebectomy** of varicose veins, 1 extremity; 10-20 stab incisions), and **37766** (more than 20 incisions). ** **These procedures are not covered for cosmetic purposes.**
Eustachian Tube Inflation	Effective 8/25/2008, only physicians with specialties of EENT and Otorhinolaryngology may bill eustachian tube inflation, transnasal; with catherization (69400), without catheterization (69401).

Examinations	Physician visits for examinations are counted as part of each recipient's benefit limit of 14 physician visits per year. Exception: Certified Emergencies. Office visits are limited to one per day, per recipient, per provider. For purposes of this limitation, a physician or physician of the same specialty and subspecialty from the same group practice are considered a single provider. Annual routine physical examinations are not covered except through EPSDT. Refer to Appendix A, EPSDT, for details. Medical examinations for such reasons as insurance policy qualifications are not covered. Physical examinations for establishment of total and permanent disability status if considered medically necessary are covered. Medicaid requires a physician's visit once every 60 days for patients in a nursing facility. Patients in intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded must receive a complete physical examination at least annually.
Eyecare	Eye examinations by physicians are a Medicaid covered service. Physician visits for eye care disease are counted as part of each recipient's benefit limit of 14 physician visits per year.
Foot Devices	See Chapter 14, Durable Medical Equipment (DME), for details
Gastric bypass	Covered with prior authorization approval when specific medical criteria are met. See Chapter 4, Obtaining Prior Authorization.
Hearing Aids	See Chapter 10, Audiology/Hearing Services, for details.
Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy	Topically applied oxygen is not hyperbaric and is not covered. HBO therapy should not be a replacement for other standard successful therapeutic measure. Medical necessity for the use of hyperbaric oxygen for more than two months must be prior approved. (Chapter 4, Obtaining Prior Authorization). Refer to Chapter 19 Hospital, under Outpatient Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBO) for specific coverage information.
Hyperalimention Parental TPN IDPN IPN	Please refer to Section 28.2.9 for documentation requirements for parental, TPN, IDPN, and IPN nutrition.
Immunizations	Refer to Appendix A, EPSDT, for information regarding the Vaccines For Children (VFC) Program. Payment for immunizations against communicable diseases for adults will be made if the physician normally charges his patients for this service. Refer to Appendix H, Alabama Medicaid Physician Administered Drugs for coverage information.
Infant Resuscitation	Newborn resuscitation (procedure code 99465 on/after 01/01/09) is a covered service when the baby's condition is life threatening and immediate resuscitation is necessary to restore and maintain life functions. Intubation, endotracheal, emergency procedure (procedure code 31500) cannot be billed in conjunction with newborn resuscitation.
Mammography Diagnostic	Refer to Chapter 22, Independent Radiology for coverage information.
Mammography Screening	Refer to Chapter 22, Independent Radiology for coverage information.
Medical Materials and Supplies	Costs for medical materials and supplies normally utilized during office visits or surgical procedures are to be considered part of the total fee for procedures performed by the physician and therefore are not generally a separately billable service.
Medical Necessity	The Alabama Medicaid Agency is mandated to only reimburse for services, procedures, and surgeries that are medically necessary. Medical necessity must be documented in the recipient's medical record with supporting documentation such as: Laboratory test results, diagnostic test results, history (past attempts of management if applicable), signs and symptoms, etc. All Medicaid services are subject to retrospective review for medical necessity. EXAMPLE: Endometrial Ablation is covered by Medicaid when it is considered medically necessary and should not be performed when an alternative outcome is intended such as cessation of menses. Medical necessity must be clearly documented in the medical record.

Newborn Claims	Five kinds of newborn care performed by physicians in the days after the child's birth when the mother is still in the hospital may be filed under the mother's name and number or the baby's name and number: When billing under the mother's Medicaid number, use diagnosis codes **V200 – V202 only, for normal newborn care. These diagnosis codes must be used on the claim form for consideration of payment.** 1. Routine newborn care (99460 on/after 01/01/09, 99462 on/after 01/01/09, and discharge codes 99238 or 99239). 2. Circumcision (54150 or 54160) Please note that the billing of PC 64450 is not allowed along with PC 54150 (which includes the nerve block in the description). 3. Newborn resuscitation (99465). 4. Standby services following a cesarean section or a high-risk vaginal delivery (99360). 5. Attendance at delivery (when requested by delivering physician) and initial stabilization of newborn (99464). Standby services (procedure code 99360) are covered only when the pediatrician, family practitioner, neonatologist, general practitioner, or non-delivering OB/GYN is on standby in the operating or delivery room during a cesarean section or a high-risk vaginal delivery. Attendance of the standby physician in the hospital operating or delivery room must be documented in the operating or delivery report. Use CPT codes when filing claims for these five kinds of care. If these services are billed under the mother's name and number and the infant(s) are twins, indicate Twin A or Twin B in Block 19 of the claim form. Any care other than routine newborn care for a well baby, before and after the mother leaves the hospital, must be billed under the child's name and number.
Newborn Hearing Screening	Inpatient newborn hearing screenings are considered an integral part of inpatient hospital services. Please refer to Chapter 19 for Outpatient Services. Limited hearing screen codes 92586 and 92587 (CPT 2002) may be billed in an outpatient setting provided: 1) an infant was discharged prior to receiving the inpatient hearing screen, or 2) an infant was born outside a hospital or birthing center. These codes are reimbursable for audiologists, pediatricians, otolaryngologists, and EENT. Comprehensive hearing screen codes 92585/92588/92558 may be billed for: 1) infants who fail the newborn hearing screening prior to discharge from the hospital, or 2) infants/children fail a hearing screening at any time following discharge. Comprehensive hearing screenings should be performed on infants by three months of age if they failed the newborn hearing screening prior to discharge. Code 92585 is reimbursable for otolaryngologists, audiologists, pediatricians, and EENT. Code 92588 is reimbursable for otolaryngologists, audiologists, pediatricians, EENT, and neurologists.
Obstetrical Services	Refer to Section 28.2.10
Obstetrical Ultrasounds	Medicaid recipients that are **not** participating in the Maternity Care program are allowed up to two obstetrical ultrasounds per pregnancy without prior authorization. Greater than two OB ultrasounds per pregnancy must be supported with a medical diagnosis, medical benefit of the procedure, and prior authorized. **Effective 1/1/2010**, ultrasounds for recipients participating **in** the Maternity Care Program are included in the Maternity Contract, and do not require a prior authorization. All ultrasounds must be medically necessary with medical diagnosis documented supporting the benefit of the ultrasound procedure.
Oxygen and Compressed Gas	A physician's fee for administering oxygen or other compressed gas is a covered service under the Medicaid program. Oxygen therapy is a covered service based on medical necessity and requires prior authorization. Please refer to Chapter 14, DME, for more information.
Podiatrist Service	Covered for QMB or EPSDT referred services only. See Chapter 29, Podiatrist, for more details.

Post Surgical Visits	Routine post-surgical care in the hospital or office visits for conditions directly related to major surgical procedures are covered by the surgical fee. Post-surgical visits cannot be billed separately the day of, or up to 90 days after surgery. For conditions unrelated to the surgical procedure bill the appropriate (E&M) procedure code with a 24 modifier appended. The diagnosis must support use of the modifier 24.
Prosthetic Devices	Internal prosthetic devices (e.g., Smith Peterson Nail or pacemaker) are a covered benefit.
Psychiatric Services	Physician visits for psychiatric services are counted as part of each recipient's benefit limit of 14 physician visits per year. Psychiatric evaluation or testing are covered services under the Physicians' Program if services are rendered by a physician in person and are medically necessary. Psychiatric evaluations are limited to one per calendar year, per provider, per recipient. Psychotherapy visits are included in the office visit limit of 14 visits per calendar year. Effective January 1, 2013, the following psychotherapy Add-on codes may be billed in conjunction with Evaluation and Management codes billed by the psychiatrist: 90833, 90836, and 90838. Psychiatric services under the Physicians' Program are confined to use with psychiatric diagnosis (290-319) and must be performed by a physician. The “must be performed by a physician” does not apply for EPSDT-referred psychiatric services. Hospital visits are not covered when billed in conjunction with psychiatric therapy on the same day. For EPSDT-referred services rendered by psychologist, see Chapter 34 for details. Psychiatric day care is not a covered benefit under the Physicians' Program. **NOTE**: For billing purposes, psychiatrist services are not limited to what psychologist bills.
Radiation Treatment Management	Radiation treatment management services do not need to be furnished on consecutive days. Up to two units may be billed on the same date of service as long as there has been a separate break in therapy sessions.
Second Opinions	Physician visits for second opinions are counted as part of each recipient's benefit limit of 14 physician visits per year. Optional Surgery: Second opinions (regarding non-emergency surgery) are highly recommended in the Medicaid program when the recipients request them. Diagnostic Services: Payment may be made for covered diagnostic services deemed necessary by the second physician.
Self-inflicted injuries	Self-inflicted injuries are covered.
Sleep Studies	Covered when billed through the enrolled physician’s NPI or Outpatient hospital NPI. Medicaid does not enroll sleep study clinics. Unattended sleep studies (95806) are not covered by Medicaid. Please refer to Chapter 19, Hospital, for additional limitations.

Surgery	Cosmetic surgery is covered only when prior approved for medical necessity. Examples of medical necessity include prompt repair of accidental injuries or improvement of the functioning of a malformed body member. Elective surgery is covered when medically necessary. **Multiple surgeries are governed by the following rules:** When multiple or bilateral surgical procedures that add significant time or complexity are performed at the same operative session, Medicaid pays for the procedure with the highest allowed amount and half of the allowed amount for each subsequent procedure. This also applies to laser surgical procedures. Additional payments will **not** be made for procedures considered to be mutually exclusive or incidental. Mutually Exclusive procedures are services that cannot reasonably be performed at the same anatomic site or same patient encounter. Certain procedures are commonly carried out as integral parts of a total service and as such do not warrant a separate charge. When incidental procedures (e.g., excision of a previous scar or puncture of an ovarian cyst) are performed during the same operative session, Medicaid reimburses for the major procedure only. CPT defined Add-on codes are considered for coverage when billed with the appropriate primary procedure code. Add-on codes are not subject to rule of 50 percent reduction. Any dressing/compression wrap performed in conjunction with wound debridement is considered part of the debridement services and is not separately covered/billable. Laparotomy is covered when it is the only surgical procedure performed during the operative session or when performed with an unrelated or incidental surgical procedure. Surgeons performing laparoscopic procedures on recipients where a laparoscopic procedure code (PC) has not been established should bill the most descriptive PC with modifier 22 (unusual procedural services) until the new PC is established. Unlisted CPT codes require prior authorization **before** services are rendered. Whenever unusual procedures are performed and there is no exact descriptive CPT code, AMA requires the most appropriate CPT code be utilized with a modifier 22. Procedure Code 69990 Operating Microscope may be paid separately only when submitted with the following CPT codes: 61304-61546, 61550 - 61619, 61624 - 61626, 61640-61711, 62010-62100, 63081-63308, 63704-63710, 64831, 64834-64836, 64840-64858, 64861-64870, 64885-64898, 64905-64907. Certain relatively small surgical procedure codes designated as “zero” global days may be billed in addition to an office visit. Additionally, these codes do not carry the global surgical package concept of inclusion of post-operative care. It is necessary to append the appropriate anatomical modifiers to surgical codes to differentiate between multiple surgeries and sites. Please refer to Section 28.5.3 Procedure Codes and Modifiers. Modifier 57 (Decision for Surgery), is not billable on the same day of surgery. NOTE: Surgeons are responsible for submitting hard copy hysterectomy and sterilization consent forms to HPES at PO Box 244032, Montgomery, AL 36124 Attn: Medical Policy Unit / Consent Forms

Surgery, Breast Reconstruction	Breast reconstruction surgery is reimbursable following a medically necessary mastectomy when performed for the removal of cancer. Breast reconstruction will also be allowed on the non-cancerous contra lateral breast for the purpose of symmetry. Medicaid does **not** reimburse for reconstruction after a prophylactic mastectomy unless evidence of breast cancer is documented in the medical record. All reconstructive procedures require prior authorization. The term "reconstruction" shall include augmentation mammoplasty, reduction mammoplasty, and mastoplexy. Breast reconstruction surgeries are governed by the following rules: • The reconstruction follows a medically necessary mastectomy for the removal of cancer. A pathology report is required. • The recipient is eligible for Medicaid on the date of reconstruction surgery • The recipient elects reconstruction within two years of the mastectomy surgery date • Documentation of therapy completion (chemotherapy and/or radiation treatment), and Operative Report of mastectomy if reconstructive procedure is performed after mastectomy on a different date. If reconstructive procedures are to be performed on the same date as the mastectomy, the physician must send certification that radiation therapy is not planned based on current staging or treatment plan, or must document therapy completion. • For more information regarding prior authorization, please refer to Chapter 4 Obtaining Prior Authorization. For more information related to breast prosthesis, please refer to Chapter 14 Durable Medical Equipment.

Telemedicine	Effective for dates of service 1/16/2012 and thereafter, all physicians with an Alabama license, enrolled as a provider with the Alabama Medicaid Agency, regardless of location, are eligible to participate in the Telemedicine Program to provide medically necessary telemedicine services to Alabama Medicaid eligible recipients. In order to participate in the telemedicine program: a. Physicians must be enrolled with Alabama Medicaid with a specialty type of 931 (Telemedicine Service). b. Physician must submit the Telemedicine Service Agreement/Certification form which is located on the Medicaid website at: http://medicaid.alabama.gov/documents/5.0_Resources/5.4_Forms_Library/5.4.6_Provider_Enrollment/5.4.6_Web_Portal_App_Telemed_Servcs_Agree_1-5-12.pdf. c. Physician must obtain prior consent from the recipient before services are rendered, this will count as part of each recipient's benefit limit of 14 annual physician office visits currently allowed. A sample recipient consent form is located on the Medicaid website at: http://medicaid.alabama.gov/documents/5.0_Resources/5.4_Forms_Library/5.4.6_Provider_Enrollment/Fillable_Forms/5.4.6_AL_Med_Telemedicine_Recipient_Consent_Form_Fillable_6-30-11.pdf Services must be administered via an interactive audio and video telecommunications system which permits two-way communication between the distant site physician and the origination site where the recipient is located (this does not include a telephone conversation, electronic mail message, or facsimile transmission between the physician, recipient, or a consultation between two physicians). Telemedicine health care providers shall ensure that the telecommunication technology and equipment used at the recipient site, and at the physician site, is sufficient to allow the health care physician to appropriately evaluate, diagnose, and/or treat the recipient for services billed to Medicaid. Transmissions must utilize an acceptable method of encryption adequate to protect the confidentiality and integrity of the transmission information. Transmissions must employ acceptable authentication and identification procedures by both the sender and the receiver. The provider shall maintain appropriately trained staff, or employees, familiar with the recipient's treatment plan, immediately available in-person to the recipient receiving a telemedicine service to attend to any urgencies or emergencies that may occur during the session. The physician shall implement confidentiality protocols that include, but are not limited to: a. specifying the individuals who have access to electronic records; and b. usage of unique passwords or identifiers for each employee or other person with access to the client records; and c. ensuring a system to prevent unauthorized access, particularly via the internet; and d. ensuring a system to routinely track and permanently record access to such electronic medical information These protocols and guidelines must be available to inspection at the telemedicine site, and to the Medicaid Agency upon request. Procedure codes covered for telemedicine services include; consultations (**99241-99245, 99251-99255**), office or other outpatient visits (**99201-99205, 99211-99215**), individual psychotherapy (**90804-90809**), psychiatric diagnostic (**90801**), and neurobehavioral status exam (**96116**). All procedure codes billed for telemedicine services must be billed with modifiers **GT** (via interactive audio and video telecommunications system). The Agency will **not** reimburse providers for origination site or transmission fees.

Therapy	Physician visits for therapy are counted as part of each recipient's benefit limit of 14 physician visits per year. See Rule No. 560-X-6.14 for details about this benefit limit in the *Alabama Medicaid Agency Administrative Code,* Chapter 6. Physical Therapy is not covered when provided in a physician's office. Physical therapy is covered only when prescribed by a physician or non-physician practitioner and provided in a hospital setting. Refer to Chapter 19, Hospital, for more information. For all physical therapy services performed as a result of an EPSDT screening refer to Chapter 37, Therapy, for policy only. Group Therapy is a covered service when a psychiatric diagnosis is present and the therapy is prescribed, performed, and billed by the physician personally. Group Therapy is not covered when performed by a caseworker, social services worker, mental health worker, or any counseling professional other than physician. Group Therapy is included in the physician visit limit of 14 visits per year. Speech Therapy for a speech related diagnosis, such as stroke (CVA) or partial laryngectomy, is a covered benefit when prescribed by and performed by a physician in his office. Speech therapy performed in an inpatient or outpatient hospital setting or in a nursing facility is a covered benefit, but is considered covered as part of the reimbursement made to the facility and should not be billed by the physician. Family Therapy is a covered service when a psychiatric diagnosis is present and the physician providing the service supplies documentation that justifies the medical necessity of the therapy for each family member. Family therapy is not covered unless the patient is present. Family Therapy is not covered when performed by a caseworker, social service worker, mental health worker, or any counseling professional other than a physician. Family Therapy is included in the physician visit limit of 14 visits per year.
Transplants	See Chapter 19, Hospitals, for transplant coverage.
Ventilation Study	Ventilation study is covered if done in physician's office by the physician or under the physician's direct supervision. Documentation in the medical record must contain all of the following: • Graphic record • Total and timed vital capacity • Maximum breathing capacity Always indicate if the studies were performed with or without a bronchodilator.
Newborn Care Services	Well baby coverage is covered only on the initial visit, which must be provided within 8 weeks of birth. When the well-baby checkup is done, the physician should bill procedure code 99461. Diagnosis codes V20.2, V20.31 and V20.32 are acceptable to bill for routine newborn care/well baby checkup. Only one well-baby checkup can be paid per lifetime, per recipient. Refer to Appendix A, EPSDT, for information on additional preventive services.

NOTE:

For newborn hospital discharge services performed on a subsequent admission date, use code 99238. Please use code 99463 when filing claims for newborns assessed and discharged from the hospital or birthing room on the same date.

Coding Exceptions

Specific codes sets in an audit were identified with an explanation as to why they should be removed or modified in the audit process. Medicaid agrees these codes sets can be billed together as an exception to NCCI and/or CPT policy. As indicated, the multiple surgery rule will be applied.

Code Sets									***Multiple Surgery***
Procedure code 64450 is allowed with code 54160.									Yes
Tympanostomy 69436 – codes below									Yes
Allowed with 69436		21030	30545	31238	31511	31615	40819	42720	42831
11300	12052	21555	30801	31240	31515	31622	40820	42806	42835
11305	14040	21556	30802	31254	31525	31624	41010	42810	42836
11401	15120	30115	30901	31255	31526	31625	41110	42815	42870
11420	15760	30130	30903	31256	31535	31641	41115	42820	42960
11440	17000	30140	31000	31267	31540	38510	41520	42821	42961
11441	17017	30200	31020	31276	31541	38542	42140	42825	43200
11444	17250	30310	31231	31287	31575	38724	42145	42826	43202
11900	20922	30520	31237	31288	31613	40808	42200	42830	43830

28.2.3 Non-covered Services

Service	***Coverage and Conditions***
Acupuncture	Acupuncture is not covered.
After Office Hours	The following services are not covered: After office hours, services provided in a location other than the physician's office, and office services provided on an emergency basis.
Autopsies	Autopsies are not covered.
Bariatric Procedures	Considered cosmetic unless specific medical criteria are met
Biofeedback	Biofeedback is not covered.
Blood Tests	Blood tests are not covered for marriage licenses.
Casting and Supplies	Some surgical codes are considered an inclusive package of professional services and/or supplies and are not considered separately allowable or reimbursable as the fracture repair or surgical codes is inclusive of these services. An example of this would be a surgical code for a fracture repair which is inclusive of any casting and strapping services or supplies.
Cerumen Removal	CPT Code 69210 is not covered if the ear wax is not impacted and the service does not meet the criteria outlined in section 28.2.2, Covered Services.
Chiropractors	Chiropractic services are not covered, except for QMB recipients and for services referred directly as a result of an EPSDT screening.
Chromosomal Studies	Chromosomal studies (amniocentesis) on unborn children being considered for adoption are not covered. Medicaid can pay for these studies on prospective mothers in an effort to identify conditions that could result in the birth of an abnormal child.
Dressing and Compression Wrap	Any dressing/compression wrap performed in conjunction with wound debridement is considered part of the debridement services and is not separately covered / billable.
Experimental Treatment or Surgery	Experimental treatment or surgery is not covered.

Deleted: ~~When a simple…and management charge.~~

Added: CPT Code 69210…28.2.2, Covered services

Filing Fees	Filing Fees are not covered.
Hypnosis	Hypnosis is not covered.
Laetrile Therapy	Laetrile therapy is not covered.
Mutually Exclusive Procedures	Mutually exclusive procedures are those codes that cannot reasonably be done in the same session and are considered not separately allowable or reimbursable. For example, a vaginal and abdominal hysterectomy on the same date of service.
Oxygen and Compressed Gas	Oxygen therapy is a covered service based on medical necessity and requires prior authorization. Please refer to Chapter 14, DME, for more information.
Pulse Oximetry	Effective January 1, 2009, Non-invasive ear or pulse oximetry services (procedure codes 94760-94762) will no longer be considered separately billable/payable by Medicaid for physician and outpatient services. These procedure codes, per policy dated July 2006, are considered bundled services which are included in Evaluation and Management codes for both physician and outpatient services.
Surgery	When multiple and/or bilateral procedures are billed in conjunction with one another and meet the CPTs definition of "Format of Terminology" (bundled or subset) and/or comprehensive/component (bundled) codes, then the procedure with the highest allowed amount will be paid while the procedure with the lesser amount will not be considered for payment as the procedure is considered an integral part of the covered service. Please refer to Section 28.5.3 Procedure Codes and Modifiers. Incidental surgical procedures are defined as those codes that are commonly carried out as integral parts of a total service and as such do not warrant a separate charge. An example of this would be lysis of adhesions during the same session as an abdominal surgery. Refer to this link, (http://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Data-and-Systems/National-Correct-Coding-Initiative.html for more information regarding NCCI.
Post Surgical Visits	Post-surgical hospital or office visits for conditions directly related to major surgical procedures are covered by the surgical fee. Surgical visits cannot be billed separately the day of surgery or up to 90 days after surgery. Visits by Assistant Surgeon or Surgeons are not covered.
Preventive Medicine	Medicaid does not cover preventive medicine other than those specified elsewhere, including but not limited to, EPSDT screening.
Syntocin	Syntocin is not covered.
Telephone Consultations	Telephone consultations are not covered.
Therapy	Occupational and Recreational Therapies are not covered.

28.2.4 Limitations on Services

Within each calendar year each recipient is limited to no more than a total of 14 physician visits in offices, hospital outpatient settings, nursing facilities, rural health clinics or Federally Qualified Health Centers. Visits not counted under this benefit limit will include, but not be limited to, visits for: EPSDT, prenatal care, postnatal care, and family planning. Physicians services provided in a hospital outpatient setting that have been certified as an emergency do not count against the physician benefit limit of 14 per calendar year. If a patient receives ancillary services in a doctor's office, by the physician or under his/her direct supervision, and the doctor submits a claim only for the ancillary services but not for the office visit, then the services provided will not be counted as a visit.

Office visits are limited to one per day per recipient per provider. For purposes of this limitation, a physician or physician of the same specialty and subspecialty from the same group practice are considered a single provider. Annual office visit benefit limits are 14 office visits per calendar year. Medicaid will continue to pay covered ancillary services (injections, lab, x-rays etc…) for recipients after they have exhausted the 14 physician office visit limitation.

For further information regarding outpatient maintenance dialysis and ESRD, refer to Chapter 35, Renal Dialysis Facility.

A new patient office visit codes shall not be paid to the same physician or same group practice for a recipient more than once in a three-year period.

Prolonged Services Direct Face-to-Face Patient Contact (Procedure Codes 99354 and 99355) in Office or Other Outpatient Setting

Requirement for Physician Presence and Documentation:

- Physicians may count **only** the duration of **direct face-to-face** contact between the physician and the patient (whether the service was continuous or not) beyond the typical/average time of the visit code billed to determine whether prolonged services can be billed and to determine the prolonged service codes that are allowable. In the case of prolonged office services, time spent by office staff with the patient, or time the patient remains unaccompanied in the office cannot be billed. In the case of prolonged outpatient services, time spent reviewing charts or discussion of a patient with medical staff and not with direct face-to-face contact with the patient, or waiting for test results, for changes in the patient’s condition, for end of a therapy, or for use of facilities cannot be billed as prolonged services.

- Documentation is required in the medical record about the **duration** and **content** of the **medically necessary** evaluation and management service and prolonged services billed. The medical record must be appropriately and sufficiently documented by the physician to show that the physician personally furnished the direct face-to-face time with the patient specified in the CPT code definition. Time must be documented clearly in the medical record to indicate the beginning of service time and the end of service time to justify these codes being billed in addition to the office visit.

- When the **evaluation and management** service is dominated by counseling and/or coordination of care (counseling and/or coordination of care represents more than 50% of the total time with the patient) in a face-to-face encounter between the physician and the patient in the office, the E&M code is selected based on the typical/average time associated with the code levels. The time approximation must meet or exceed the specific CPT code billed (determined by the typical/average time associated with the E&M code) and should not be “rounded to the next higher level”. For E&M services in which the code level is selected based on time, you may only report prolonged services with the highest code level in that family of codes as the companion code.
- Prolonged service of less than 30 minutes total duration on a given date is not separately reported because the work involved is included in the total work of the evaluation and management codes.

Effective July 1, 2011, Procedure Codes 99354 and 99355:

- May be billed only in conjunction with companion procedure codes 99201-99205, 99212-99215 99241-99245, 99324-99337, and 99341-99350. Effective April 1, 2012, Procedure Code 99211 is excluded from coverage with prolonged services and may not be billed.
- May not be billed with codes including the EP modifier.
- May not be billed without the above listed companion codes.

Effective January 1, 2012:

Procedure code **99354** prolonged physician services in the office or other outpatient setting requiring direct (face-to-face) patient contact beyond the usual service; first hour and Procedure code **99355** prolonged physician services in the office or other outpatient setting requiring direct (face-to-face) patient contact beyond the usual service; each additional 30 minutes will be limited to **one per recipient per provider per year**. For purposes of this limitation, a physician or physicians of the same specialty and subspecialty from the same group practice are considered a single provider. These services will be subject to post-payment review.

28.2.5 Physician Services to Hospital Inpatients

In addition to the 14 physician visits, Medicaid covers up to 16 inpatient dates of service per physician, per recipient, per calendar year. For purposes of this limitation, each specialty within a group or partnership is considered a single provider. Physician visits are limited to one per day.

When filing claims for recipients enrolled in the Patient 1st Program, please refer to Chapter 39, Patient 1st, to determine whether your services require a referral from the Primary Medical Provider (PMP).

Physician hospital visits are limited to one visit per day, per recipient, per provider.

Physician(s) may bill for inpatient professional interpretation(s), when that interpretation serves as the official and final report documented in the patient's medical record. Professional interpretation may be billed in addition to a hospital visit if the rounding physician also is responsible for the documentation of the final report for the procedure in the patient's medical record. Professional interpretation may not be billed in addition to hospital visits if the provider reviews results in the medical record or unofficially interprets medical, laboratory, or radiology tests. Review and interpretation of such tests and results are included in the evaluation and management of the inpatient. Medicaid will cover either one hospital visit or professional interpretation(s) up to the allowed benefit limit for most services. Professional interpretations are allowed in the inpatient setting for the following services:

Echocardiography (i.e., M-mode, transthoracic, complete and follow up)

Echocardiography (i.e., 2D, transesophageal)

Echocardiography (i.e., Doppler pulsed or continuous wave with spectral display, complete and follow up)

Cardiac Catheterizations

Comprehensive electrophysiologic evaluations and follow up testing

Programmed stimulation and pacing

Intra-operative epicardial and endocardial pacing and mapping

Intracardiac catheter ablations; intracardiac echocardiography

Evaluation of cardiovascular function

Plethysmography, total body and tracing

Ambulatory blood pressure monitoring

Cerebrovascular arterial studies, extremity arterial studies, venous studies, and visceral and penile studies

Circardian respiratory pattern recording (i.e., pediatric pneumogram), infant

Needle electromyography

Ischemic limb exercise test

Assessment of aphasia

Developmental testing

Neurobehavioral status exam and neuropsychological testing battery

Professional interpretations for lab and x-ray (CPT code 70000 through 80000 services) in the inpatient setting can only be billed by pathologists and radiologists. The only exception is for professional interpretations by cardiologists for catheterization or arterial studies and for select laboratory procedures by oncologists and hematologists. Professional interpretations/components done by other physicians for services in this procedure code range are included in the hospital visit if one is done. If no hospital visit is made, professional interpretation by physicians other than radiologists, pathologists, oncologists, hematologists, and cardiologists should not be billed as these services are covered only for the above-mentioned specialties.

A physician hospital visit and hospital discharge shall not be paid to the same physician on the same day. If both are billed, only the discharge shall be paid.

Professional interpretations performed for an inpatient are counted by dates of service rather than the number of interpretation performed.

An office visit shall not be paid to the same provider or other physicians in the same group practice with the same specialty and subspecialty on the same day as an inpatient visit. If both are billed, then the **first** Procedure Code billed will be paid.

Physician consults are limited to one per day per recipient.

28.2.6 Critical Care (99291 & 99292)

When caring for a critically ill patient, for whom the constant attention of the physician is required, the appropriate critical care procedure code (99291 and 99292) must be billed. Critical care guidelines are defined in the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) and Provider Manual. Critical care is considered a daily global inclusive of all services directly related to critical care.

Coverage of critical care may total no more than four hours per day.

The actual time period spent in attendance at the patient's bedside or performing duties specifically related to that patient, irrespective of breaks in attendance, must be documented in the patient's medical record.

RESTRICTIONS:

No individual procedures related to critical care may be billed in addition to procedure codes 99291 and 99292, except:

- An EPSDT screening may be billed in lieu of the initial hospital care (P/C 99221, 99222, or 99223). If screening is billed, the initial hospital care cannot be billed.
- Procedure code 99082 (transportation or escort of patient) may also be billed with critical care (99291 and/or 99292 for recipients 25 months of age and older or 99466 and/or 99467 for recipients 24 months of age or less). Only the attending physician may bill this service and critical care. Residents or nurses who escort a patient may not bill either service.

LIMITATIONS:

PROCEDURE CODES NOT BILLABLE IN ADDITION TO CRITICAL CARE (99291 & 99292):

Deleted: ~~92950~~

Added: 92920

FROM	TO	FROM	TO	FROM	TO	FROM	TO
31500	31500	43752	43757	92265	92275	95925	95937
36000	36440	51100	51100	92280	92287	99090	99091
36468	36479	51701	51702	92920	93299	99170	99199
36510	36510	62270	62270	93303	93352	99460	99463
36555	36555	71010	71020	93561	93562		
36591	36591	82800	82820	93668	93799		
36600	36680	91105	91105	93875	94799		

- Procedure codes 99291, 99292, 99466 and 99467 may be billed by the physician providing the care of the critically ill or injured patient in place of service 41, Ambulance, if care is

personally rendered by the physician providing the care of the critically ill or injured patient.

28.2.7 Pediatric and Neonatal Critical Care

CPT Code	Description	Criteria
99468	Initial Inpatient Neonatal Critical Care, per day for the evaluation and management of a critically ill neonate, 28 days of age or less	Not valid for 29 days or older, can be billed by any physician provider type
99469	Subsequent Inpatient Neonatal Critical Care, per day for the evaluation and management of a critically ill neonate, 28 days of age or less	Not valid for ages 29 days or older, can be billed by any physician provider type
99471	Initial Inpatient Pediatric Critical Care, per day for the evaluation and management of a critically ill infant or young child, 29 days through 24 months of age	Not valid for 28 days or less, can be billed by any physician provider type
99472	Subsequent Inpatient Pediatric Critical Care per day, for the evaluation and management of a critically ill infant or young child, 29 days through 24 months of age	Not valid for ages 28 days or less, can be billed by any physician provider type
99475	Initial inpatient pediatric critical care, per day, for the evaluation and management of a critically ill infant or young child, 2 through 5 years of age	May be billed by any physician provider type for infant or child, 2 through 5 years of age
99476	Subsequent inpatient pediatric critical care, per day, for the evaluation and management of a critically ill infant or young child, 2 through 5 years of age	May be billed by any physician provider type for infant or child, 2 through 5 years of age

The pediatric and neonatal critical care codes (99468-99476) include management, monitoring and treatment of the patient, including respiratory, pharmacological control of the circulatory system, enteral and parenteral nutrition, metabolic and hematologic maintenance, parent/family counseling, case management services and personal direct supervision of the health care team in the performance of their daily activities.

The following criteria should be used as guidelines for the correct reporting of neonatal and pediatric critical care codes for the critically ill neonate/infant. Only one criterion is required to be classified as critically ill.

- Respiratory support by ventilator or CPAP
- Nitric oxide or ECMO
- Prostaglandin, Indotropin of Chronotropic or Insulin infusions
- NPO with IV fluids

- Acute Dialysis (renal or peritoneal)
- Weight less than 1,250 grams
- Acute respiratory distress in a pediatric admission requiring oxygen therapy with at least daily adjustment and FIO2>35% oxygen by oxyhood.

RESTRICTIONS:

No individual procedures related to critical care may be billed in addition to procedure codes 99468-99476 except:

- Chest tube placement
- Pericardiocentesis or thoacentesis
- Intracranial taps
- Initial hospital care history and physical or EPSDT screen may be billed in conjunction with 99468. Both may not be billed. NOTE: One EPSDT screen for the hospitalization will encompass all diagnoses identified during the hospital stay for referral purposes.
- Standby (99360), resuscitation (99465), or attendance at delivery (99464) may be billed in addition to critical care. Only one of these codes may be billed in addition to neonatal intensive care critical care codes.

LIMITATIONS:

- Pediatric, neonatal critical care codes and intensive (non-critical) low birth weight service codes are reported once per day per recipient.
- Subsequent Hospital Care codes (99231-99233) cannot be billed on the same date of service as neonatal critical care codes (99468-99476)
- Only one unit of critical care can be billed per child per day in the same facility. Medicaid pays the first claim received and denies subsequent claims (first in, first out policy).
- Critical care is considered to be an evaluation and management service. Although usually furnished in a critical or intensive care unit, critical care may be provided in any inpatient health care setting. Services provided which do not meet critical care criteria, should be billed under the appropriate hospital care codes. If a recipient is readmitted to the NICU/ICU, the provider must be the primary physician in order for NICU critical care codes to be billed again.
- Once the patient is no longer considered by the attending physician to be critical, the Subsequent Hospital Care codes (99231-99233) should be billed. Only one unit can be billed per day per physician regardless of specialty. Medicaid pays the first claim received and denies subsequent claims (first in, first out policy).
- Transfers to the pediatric unit from the NICU cannot be billed using critical care codes. Subsequent hospital care would be billed in these instances.

- Global payments encompass all care and procedures that are included in the rate. Providers may not perform an EPSDT screen and refer to a partner or other physician to do procedures. All procedures that are included in the daily critical care rate, regardless of who performed them, are included in the global critical care code.
- Consultant care rendered to children for which the provider is not the primary attending physician must be billed using consultation codes. Appropriate procedures may be billed in addition to consultations. If, after the consultation the provider assumes total responsibility for care, critical care may be billed using the appropriate critical care codes as defined above. The medical record must clearly indicate that the provider is assuming total responsibility for care of the patient and is the primary attending physician for the patient.

28.2.8 Initial and Continuing Observation or Intensive Care Services

CPT Code	Description	Criteria
99477	Initial hospital care, per day for the evaluation and management of the neonate, 28 days of age or younger, which requires intensive observation, frequent interventions, and other intensive care services.	May only be billed by a neonatologist
99478	Subsequent intensive care, per day, for the evaluation and management of the recovering very low birth weight infant (present body weight less than 1500 grams)	May only be billed by a neonatologist
99479	Subsequent intensive care, per day, for the evaluation and management of the recovering very low birth weight infant (present body weight of 1500-2500 grams)	May only be billed by a neonatologist
99480	Subsequent intensive care, per day, for the evaluation and management of the recovering infant (present body weight of 2501-5000 grams)	May only be billed by a neonatologist

These codes are used to report care subsequent to the day of admission provided by a neonatologist directing the continuing intensive care of the very low birthweight infant who no longer meets the definition of being critically ill. Low birthweight services are reported for neonates less than 2500 grams who do not meet the definition of critical care but continue to require intensive observation and frequent services and intervention only available in an intensive care setting. Services provided to these infants exceed those available in less intensive hospital areas of medical floors. These infants require intensive cardiac and respiratory monitoring, continuous and/or frequent vital signs monitoring, heat maintenance, enteral and/or parenteral nutritional adjustments, laboratory and oxygen monitoring and constant observation by the health care team under direct supervision.

Restrictions:

No individual procedures related to critical care may be billed in addition to procedure codes 99478-99480 except:

- Chest tube placement
- Pericardiocentesis or thoracentesis
- Intracranial taps

Limitations:

- Once the patient is no longer considered by the attending physician to be critical, the Subsequent Hospital Care codes (99231-99233) should be billed. Only one unit can be billed per day per physician regardless of specialty. Medicaid pays the first claim received and denies subsequent claims (first in, first out policy).
- Global payments encompass all care and procedures that are included in the rate. Providers may not perform an EPSDT screen and refer to a partner or other physician to do procedures. All procedures that are included in the daily critical care rate, regardless of who performed them, are included in the global critical care code.
- Consultant care rendered to children for which the provider is not the primary attending physician must be billed using consultation codes. Appropriate procedures may be billed in addition to consultations. If, after the consultation the provider assumes total responsibility for care, critical care may be billed using the appropriate critical care codes as per the setting. The medical record must clearly indicate that the provider is assuming total responsibility for care of the patient and is the primary attending physician for the patient.
- Pediatric, neonatal critical care codes and intensive (non-critical) low birth weight services codes are only reported once per day per recipient.

PROCEDURE CODES NOT BILLABLE IN ADDITION TO INITIAL AND CONTINUING OBSERVATION OR INTENSIVE CARE SERVICES

FROM	TO	FROM	TO	FROM	TO	FROM	TO
31500	31579	62263	62368	94002	94004	99218	99220
36000	36830	90470	90471	94010	94772	99231	99239
43752	43761	90760	90781	95831	95857	99251	99275
51000	51010	92081	92081	95880	95882	99291	99292
51100	51102	92551	92551	96101	96125	99431	99435
51600	51798	92950	92950	96360	96379	99460	99463
53670	53675	93000	93352	99090	99091		

28.2.9 End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)

Physician services rendered to each outpatient maintenance dialysis patient provided during a full month shall be billed on a monthly capitation basis using the appropriate procedure code by age as outlined in the CPT. Monthly maintenance dialysis payment (i.e., uninterrupted maintenance dialysis) is comprehensive and covers most of a physician's services whether a patient dialyzes at home or in an approved ESRD outpatient facility. Dialysis procedures are allowed in addition to the monthly maintenance dialysis payment. In general, the Agency follows Medicare guidelines related to monthly capitation payments for physicians.

Physician services included in the monthly capitation payment for ESRD related services include, but are not limited to:

- Assessment and determination of the need for outpatient chronic dialysis therapy
- Assessment and determination of the type of dialysis access and dialyzing cycle,
- Management of the dialysis visits including outpatient visits for evaluation and management, management during the dialysis, and telephone calls.
- Assessment and determination if a recipient meets preliminary criteria as a renal transplant candidate including discussions with family members
- Assessment for a specified diet and nutritional supplementation for the control of chronic renal failure, including specifying quantity of total protein, sodium, potassium, amount of fluids, types of anemia and appropriate treatments, type of arthropathy or neuropathy and appropriate treatment or referral, estimated ideal dry weight, etc. Assessment for diabetic patient's diet and caloric intake is included also.
- Prescribing the parameters of intradialytic management including anticoagulant, dialysis blood flow rates and temperature, duration and frequency of treatments, etc.

The monthly capitation payment is limited to once per month, per recipient, per provider.

The following services are not covered by the monthly capitation payment (MCP) for the attending dialysis physicians and are reimbursed in accordance with usual and customary charge rules:

- Declotting of shunts
- Covered physician services furnished to hospital inpatients by a physician who elects not to receive the MCP for these services. For example, an attending physician who provides evaluation and management (E & M) services for a renal patient in an inpatient setting may bill appropriate CPT hemodialysis procedures in lieu of certain other E & M services for inpatient visits.

Nonrenal related physician services furnished by the physician providing renal care or by another physician. (These services may not be incidental to services furnished during a dialysis session or office visit necessitated by the renal condition.) For example, physician services rendered to hospitalized inpatient recipients who require dialysis but are not receiving dialysis on that day may use the appropriate procedure code as described in the CPT.

Physician services are allowed for outpatient maintenance dialysis patients not performed as prescribed during a full month or interruptedly. An example of interrupted monthly outpatient dialysis maintenance is preceding and/or following the period of hospitalization.

The CPT codes described by age for physicians rendering outpatient dialysis services that are interrupted during a full month should be billed on a per day basis. These codes should be billed for the days of the month in which the outpatient ESRD related services were performed.

Single or repeated physician assessments are allowed for hemodialysis or dialysis procedures other than hemodialysis. These services are comprehensive and include assessment and management related to the patient's renal dialysis. Please utilize the most descriptive and appropriate CPT dialysis procedure when billing for single or repeated physician evaluation(s).

Dialysis training is a covered service when billed by an approved ESRD facility.

Refer to Chapter 35, Renal Dialysis Facility, for further details.

Parenteral Nutrition

The Alabama Medicaid Agency may reimburse for total parenteral nutritional (TPN) solutions through the pharmacy program if the recipient meets certain requirements as listed below. TPN solutions include those used for hyperalimentation, intradialytic parenteral nutrition (IDPN), and intraperitoneal nutrition (IPN). Requirements must be met and clearly documented in the medical record for coverage of all TPN. All services rendered are subject to post payment review.

Statement of Medical Necessity

The ordering physician will be responsible for writing a statement of medical necessity. This statement shall certify that the patient cannot be maintained on oral or enteral feedings and that due to severe pathology of the alimentary tract either hyperalimentation or IDPN/IPN must be given for 100% of nutritional needs. The original signed statement of medical necessity must be kept in the patient's medical record. This certification statement must be written or stamped on the prescription or reproduced on a form accompanying the prescription. The statement must be signed and dated by the certifying physician at the time of the initial order and updated yearly in accordance with Medicaid billing practice.

Hyperalimentation

Medicaid covers hyperalimentation for recipients who meet certain requirements of medical necessity and documentation in the medical record is sufficient based on the following:

- Documentation in the medical record must validate the patient suffers from a permanently impaired gastrointestinal tract and that there is insufficient absorption of nutrients to maintain adequate strength and weight. The following are considered conditions which could cause insufficient absorption:
  1. Crohn's disease
  2. Obstruction secondary to stricture or neoplasm of the esophagus or stomach
  3. Loss of ability to swallow due to central nervous system disorder, where the risk of aspiration is great
  4. Short bowel syndrome secondary to massive small bowel resection
  5. Malabsorption due to enterocolic, enterovesical or enterocutaneous fistulas (TPN temporary until the repair of the fistula)
  6. Motility disorder (pseudo-obstruction)
  7. Prolonged paralytic ileus following a major surgical procedure or multiple injuries
  8. Newborn infants with catastrophic gastrointestinal anomalies such as tracheoesophageal fistulas, gastroschisis, omphalocele or massive intestinal atresia
  9. Infants and young children who fail to thrive due to systemic disease or secondary to insufficiency associated with short bowel syndrome, malabsorption or chronic idiopathic diarrhea.
- Medical record documentation must include supporting evidence that the patient cannot be maintained on oral or enteral feedings and that due to severe pathology of the alimentary tract, hyperalimentation must be given in order to meet 100% of the patient's nutritional needs.
- Physical signs, symptoms and test results indicating severe pathology of the alimentary tract must be clearly documented in the medical record. This would include BUN, serum albumin, and phosphorus. Medical records must document inability to maintain weight during a trial of at least four weeks of enteral feeding.

Intradialytic Parenteral Nutrition (IDPN) and Intraperitoneal Nutrition (IPN)

IDPN and IPN involves infusing hyperalimentation fluids as part of dialysis, through the vascular shunt or intraperitoneally to normalize the amounts of albumin, glucose, and other nutrients in the blood stream to decrease morbidity and mortality associated with protein calorie malnutrition. IDPN and IPN solutions are considered **not covered** for the recipient with a functioning gastrointestinal tract whose need for parenteral nutrition is only due to the following:

- If IDPN or IPN is offered as an addition to regularly scheduled infusions of TPN
- If the recipient would not qualify as a candidate for TPN
- A swallowing disorder
- A temporary defect in gastric emptying such as a metabolic or electrolyte disorder
- A psychological disorder, such as depression, impairing food intake
- A metabolic disorder inducing anorexia, such as cancer
- A physical disorder impairing food intake, such as dyspnea or severe pulmonary or cardiac disease
- A side effect of medication
- Renal failure and/or dialysis

The following requirements must be met in order to bill for IDPN or IPN solutions:

- Documentation in the medical record must validate the patient suffers from a permanently impaired gastrointestinal tract and that there is insufficient absorption of nutrients to maintain adequate strength and weight.
- Documentation must include that the patient cannot be maintained on oral or enteral feedings and that due to severe pathology of the alimentary tract, IDPN or IPN must be given in order to meet 100% of the patient's nutritional needs.
- Infusions must be vital to the nutritional status of the recipient and not supplemental to a deficient diet or deficiencies caused by dialysis.
- Physical signs, symptoms and test results indicating severe pathology of the alimentary tract must be clearly documented in the medical record. This would include creatinine (predialysis), serum albumin (predialysis), a low or declining serum cholesterol level, and phosphorus. Medical records must document inability to maintain weight during a trial of at least four weeks of enteral feeding.

Restrictions

A few solutions used in TPN preparation are considered payable as part of the composite rate for dialysis and should not be billed separately by the pharmacist; these are as follows:

- Glucose
- Dextrose
- Trace Elements
- Multivitamins

28.2.10 Anesthesiology

Administration of anesthesia is a covered service when administered by or directed by a duly licensed physician for a medical procedure that is covered by Medicaid. Medical direction by an anesthesiologist of more than four Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) or Anesthesiology Assistants (AAs) concurrently will not be covered.

Administration of anesthesia by an AA is a covered service when the AA has met the qualifications and standards set forth by the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners. The AA must enroll with a NPI to bill the Alabama Medicaid Program. Refer to Chapter 38, Anesthesiology, for more information.

28.2.11 Obstetrical and Related Services

The following policy refers to maternity care billed as fee-for-service and not as a part of the Maternity Care program. Refer to Chapter 24, Maternity Care Program, for more details.

Physician visits for obstetrical care are counted as part of each recipient's benefit limit of 14 physician visits per year under the conditions listed below.

Maternity Care and Delivery
The services normally provided in maternity cases include antepartum care, delivery, and postpartum care. When a physician provides total obstetrical care, the procedure code which shall be filed on the claim form is the code for all-inclusive "global" care. The indicated date of service on "global" claims should be the date of delivery. If a woman is pregnant at the time she becomes eligible for Medicaid benefits, only those services provided during the time she is eligible will be covered.

NOTE:

When a physician provides eight (8) or more prenatal visits, performs the delivery, and provides the postpartum care, the physician must use a "global" obstetrical code in billing.

If a physician submits a "global" fee for maternity care and delivery, the visits covered by these codes are not counted against the recipient's limit of 14 physician office visits a calendar year. For purposes of "global" obstetrical billing, services rendered by members of a group practice are to be considered as services rendered by a single provider.

NOTE:

The date of service on the “global” OB claim must be the date of delivery.

Antepartum care includes all usual prenatal services such as initial office visit at which time pregnancy is diagnosed, initial and subsequent histories, physical examinations, blood pressure recordings, fetal heart tones, maternity counseling, etc.; therefore, additional claims for routine services should not be filed. Antepartum care also includes routine lab work (e.g., hemoglobin, hematocrit, chemical urinalysis, etc.); therefore, additional claims for routine lab work should not be filed.

To justify billing for global antepartum care services, physicians must utilize the CPT-4 antepartum care global codes (either 4-6 visits or 7 or more visits), as appropriate. Claims for antepartum care filed in this manner do not count against the recipient's limit of 14 office visits per year.

NOTE:

Physicians who provide less than four (4) visits for antepartum care must utilize CPT-4 codes under office medical services when billing for these services. These office visit codes will be counted against the recipient's limit of 14 physician visits a calendar year.

Billing for antepartum care services in addition to "global" care is not permissible. However, in cases of pregnancy complicated by toxemia, cardiac problems, diabetes, neurological problems or other conditions requiring additional or unusual services or hospitalization, claims for additional services may be filed. If the physician bills fragmented services in any case other than high-risk or complicated pregnancy and then bills a "global" code, the fragmented codes shall be recouped. Claims for such services involved in complicated or high risk pregnancies may be filed utilizing CPT codes for Office Medical Services. Claims for services involving complicated or high-risk pregnancies must indicate a diagnosis other than normal pregnancy and must be for services provided outside of scheduled antepartum visits. These claims for services shall be applied against the recipient's limit of 14 physician office visits a calendar year.

Delivery and Postpartum Care

Delivery shall include vaginal delivery (with or without episiotomy) or cesarean section delivery and all in-hospital postpartum care. More than one delivery fee may not be billed for a multiple birth (twins, triplets, etc.) delivery, regardless of delivery method(s). Delivery fees include all professional services related to the hospitalization and delivery which are provided by the physician; therefore, additional claims for physician's services in the hospital such as hospital admission, may not be filed in addition to a claim for delivery or a claim for "global" care.

EXCEPTION: When a physician's first and only encounter with the recipient is for delivery ("walk-in" patient) he may bill for a hospital admission (history and physical) in addition to delivery charges.

Postpartum care includes office visits following vaginal or cesarean section delivery for routine postpartum care within 62 days post delivery. Additional claims for routine visits during this time should not be filed.

Delivery Only

If the physician performs the delivery only, he must utilize the appropriate CPT-4 delivery only code (vaginal delivery only or C-section delivery only). More than one delivery fee may not be billed for a multiple birth (twins, triplets, etc.) delivery, regardless of the delivery method(s). Delivery fees include all professional services related to the hospitalization and delivery which are provided by the physician; therefore, additional claims for physician's services in the hospital such as hospital admission, may not be filed in addition to a claim for delivery only.

EXCEPTION: When a physician's first and only encounter with the recipient is for delivery ("walk-in" patient) he may bill for a hospital admission (history and physical) in addition to delivery charges.

Ultrasounds

Obstetrical ultrasounds are limited to two per pregnancy and one (1) per day per recipient. For patients covered under the maternity care waiver, refer to Chapter 24, Maternity Care Program. Generally, first ultrasounds are conducted to detect gestational age, multiple pregnancies, and major malformations. Second ultrasounds may be conducted to detect fetal growth disorders (intrauterine growth retardation, macrosomia) and anomalies that would appear later or may have been unrecognizable in the earlier scan.

Additional ultrasounds may be **prior approved** by the Alabama Medicaid Agency if a patient's documented medical condition meets any of the following criteria:

- Gestational diabetes with complications (Type 1 diabetes, vascular disease, hypertension, elevated alpha-fetoprotein values, poor patient compliance)
- Failure to gain weight, evaluation of fetal growth
- Pregnancy-induced hypertension
- Vaginal bleeding of undetermined etiology
- Coexisting adnexal mass
- Abnormal amniotic fluid volume (polyhydramnios, oligohydramnios)
- Pregnant trauma patient
- Congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH)
- Monitoring for special tests such as fetoscopy, amniocentesis, or cervical cerclage placement
- Assist in operations performed on the fetus in the uterus
- Detection of fetal abnormalities with other indicators or risk factors (Low human chorionic gonadotrophin (HCG) and high-unconjugated estriol (uE3) are predictive of an increased risk for Trisomy 18. Echogenic bowel grades 2 and 3 are indicative of an increased risk of cystic fibrosis and Trisomy 21)
- Determination of fetal presentation
- Suspected multiple gestation, serial evaluation of fetal growth in multiple gestation

- Suspected hydatidiform mole
- Suspected fetal death
- Suspected uterine abnormality
- Suspected abrupt placenta
- Follow-up evaluation of placental location for identified placenta previa
- Maternity Care subcontractors should contact the Primary Contractor for information regarding obstetrical ultrasounds.

To determine if a procedure requires prior authorization, providers should use the AVRS line at HP, 1(800) 727-7848. For information on diagnostic radiology procedures that require prior authorization, please refer to Chapter 22, Independent Radiology.

Emergency Services For Non-Citizens

Miscarriages

Miscarriages are not currently billable electronically. Requests concerning miscarriages for aliens who are not eligible for pregnancy or full coverage Medicaid continue to be processed manually, until further notice. Aliens, who had miscarriages, must continue to present bills timely (within three months) to the SOBRA worker, who determines eligibility; then forwards information to Central Office for manual processing. Providers will receive a check from Medicaid for miscarriages as well as other alien services approved for reimbursement.

Delivery Services Billable Through HP

Procedure code 01967 has been added to the list of codes billable through HP for medical claims.

For CMS-1500 (formerly HCFA-1500) medical claims, the following procedures are covered:

- 59409-vaginal delivery only
- 59612-vaginal only, after previous c-section
- 59514-c-section only
- 59620-c-section only, after attempted vaginal, after previous c-section
- 01960-vaginal anesthesia
- 01961-c-section anesthesia
- 01967-neuraxial labor analgesia/anesthesia
- 62319-epidurals

For UB-04 inpatient claims, the following per diem is covered:

- Up to 2 days for vaginal delivery
- Up to 4 days for c-section delivery.

Allowable diagnoses codes for CMS-1500 or UB-04:

V270 - V279	650
65100-65993	6571 - 6573

Deleted: ~~V300 – V3921~~

Allowable Surgical codes for UB-04 are 740-7499.

28.2.12 Vaccines For Children (VFC)

The Department of Public Health provides vaccines at no charge to Medicaid providers enrolled in the Vaccines For Children (VFC) Program as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization.

Medicaid reimburses administration fees for vaccines provided free of charge through the VFC Program. The rate for the administration fee is $8.00; it is not the rate on the pricing file. Please refer to Appendix A, Well Child Check-Up, Section A.6.1 (Fees) for information regarding the use of designated VFC codes for billing immunization administration fee(s).

A VFC provider may or may not choose to become an enrolled Medicaid provider. Enrollment as a VFC provider or a Medicaid provider is independent of each other.

Refer to Appendix A, EPSDT, for procedure codes for VFC.

28.2.13 Lab Services

Collection of laboratory specimens may be billed only when sending specimens to another site for analysis if the other site is not owned, operated, or financially associated with the site in which the specimen was collected. The collection fee may not be billed if the lab work is done at the same site where the specimen was collected or in a lab owned, operated, or financially associated with the site in which the specimen was collected. Providers will not be paid for and should not submit claims for laboratory work done for them by independent laboratories or by hospital laboratories.

Providers may submit claims for laboratory work done by them in their own offices or own laboratory facilities. Providers who send specimens to independent laboratories for analysis may bill a collection fee. This fee shall not be paid to any provider who has not actually extracted the specimen from the patient.

Lab Tests Performed in Physician's Offices

When performing laboratory tests in the physician's office:

1. The Physician must be CLIA certified to perform the test,
2. The Physician must have the appropriate equipment to perform the test, and
3. The Physician's office bills for the tests performed but not the collection fee.

When specimens are sent to an outside lab:

1. The Physician's office should not bill the laboratory code, and
2. The Physician's office may bill a collection fee with a "90" modifier for blood specimens.

EXAMPLE:
Lead Levels

Procedure Code 83655 (Lead) should only be billed when the office has the equipment to perform the test. When collecting a specimen only and then sending the blood sample to an outside lab for analysis, you must bill Procedure Code 36415 with modifier 90. The utilization of procedure code 36415-90 will enable you to receive a collection and handling fee for the specimen obtained.

Procedure code 36415-90 should not be billed when lab procedures are performed in the office. The appropriate lab procedure code(s) must be billed when actually performing the lab test. Again, the correct equipment must be utilized to perform the test. These services are subject to post-payment review. Medical record documentation must support the performance and medical necessity of the laboratory test.

NOTE:

Providers should use procedure code 36415-90 for routine venipuncture collection, 36416-90 for collection of capillary blood specimen (e.g., finger, heal, ear stick) and Q0091-90 for collection of Pap smear specimen.

Repeat Lab Procedures

Modifier 91 may be utilized to denote a repeat clinical laboratory test performed on the same date of service for the same recipient. Providers should use modifier 91 instead of modifier 76 for repeat lab procedures.

NOTE:

A physician CANNOT bill the following pathology/laboratory procedure codes; however the above collection fee can be billed, if applicable:

82775 Galactose – 1 – phosphate uridyl transferase; quantitative
83498 Hydroxyprogesterone, 17 – d
84030 Phenylalanine (PKU) blood
84437 Thyroxine; total requiring elution (e.g., neonatal)

28.2.14 Supply Code

The procedure code 99070 is utilized by physicians to bill for supplies and materials over and above those usually included with the office visit. Examples of supplies and materials over and beyond usual supplies include elastic wraps, disposable tubing for bronchial dilating equipment or post-operative dressing changes when no office visit is allowable.

28.3 Prior Authorization and Referral Requirements

Medical care and services that require prior authorization for in-state providers will continue to require prior authorization for out-of-state providers, e.g., organ transplants and select surgical procedures. Please refer to Chapter 4, Obtaining Prior Authorization for more information.

For information regarding Prior Authorization for MRI's, CT scans, CTA's, MRA's, and PET scans, refer to chapter 22, Independent Radiology.

Unlisted services and procedure codes are not covered by the Alabama Medicaid Agency, with the exception of Medicare crossover claims and rare instances when approval is granted prior to service provision after the agency has determined that the service is covered and that no other procedure code exists for reimbursement.

NOTE:

It is the responsibility of the physician to obtain prior authorization for any outpatient surgical procedure to be performed in an outpatient hospital.

28.4 Signature Requirements

Signature Requirement for Referrals: Effective May 16, 2012, for hard copy referrals, the printed, typed, or stamped name of the primary care physician with an original signature of the physician or designee is required. **Stamped or copied signatures will not be accepted.** For electronic referrals, provider certification is made via standardized electronic signature protocol.

Services that require a physician's order must be written according to practice guidelines and state/federal law and must include the date and signature of the provider, the service(s) ordered and the recipient's name. The Patient 1st/EPSDT referral form may be considered the physician's order as long as these guidelines are met. Refer to the individual provider manual chapters for detailed description of what must be included in an order.

All entries in the medical record must be legible and complete, and must be authenticated and dated promptly by the person (identified by name and discipline) who is responsible for ordering, providing, or evaluating the service furnished. The author of each entry must be identified and must authenticate his/her entry. Authentication may include handwritten or electronic signatures, or written initials, **Stamped or copied signatures will not be accepted.**

28.5 Cost Sharing (Copayment)

The copayment amount for physician office visit (including crossovers, and optometric) is $1.00 per visit. Copayment does not apply to services provided for pregnant women, nursing facility residents, recipients less than 18 years of age, emergencies, and family planning. Native American Indians that present an "active user letter" issued by Indian Health Services (IHS) will be exempt from the Medicaid required copayment.

The provider may not deny services to any eligible Medicaid recipient because of the recipient's inability to pay the cost-sharing (copayment) amount imposed.

28.6 Completing the Claim Form

To enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Medicaid processing, providers should bill Medicaid claims electronically.

Physicians who bill Medicaid claims electronically receive the following benefits:

- Quicker claim processing turnaround
- Immediate claim correction
- Enhanced online adjustment functions
- Improved access to eligibility information

Refer to Appendix B, Electronic Media Claims Guidelines, for more information about electronic filing.

NOTE:

When filing a claim on paper, a CMS-1500 claim form is required. Medicare-related claims must be filed using the Medical Medicaid/Medicare-related Claim Form.

This section describes program-specific claims information. Refer to Chapter 5, Filing Claims, for general claims filing information and instructions.

28.6.1 Time Limit for Filing Claims

Medicaid requires all claims for physicians to be filed within one year of the date of service. Refer to Section 5.1.5, Filing Limits, for more information regarding timely filing limits and exceptions.

28.6.2 Diagnosis Codes

The *International Classification of Diseases - 9th Revision - Clinical Modification* (ICD-9-CM) manual lists required diagnosis codes. These manuals may be obtained by contacting the American Medical Association, P.O. Box 10950, Chicago, IL 60610.

NOTE:

ICD-9 diagnosis codes must be listed to the highest number of digits possible (3, 4, or 5 digits). Do not use decimal points in the diagnosis code field.

28.6.3 Procedure Codes and Modifiers

Medicaid uses the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS). HCPCS is composed of the following:

- American Medical Association's Current Procedural Terminology (CPT)
- Nationally assigned codes developed for Medicare
- Locally assigned codes issued by Medicaid. Effective for dates of service on or after 01/01/2004, use national codes.

Filing Claims with Modifiers

Appropriate use of CPT and HCPCs modifiers is required to differentiate between sites and procedures. It is necessary to append the appropriate anatomical modifiers to surgical codes to differentiate between multiple surgeries and sites.

Appropriate Use of Modifiers

Please refer to this CMS link for more information regarding NCCI edits: http://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Data-and-Systems/National-Correct-Coding-Initiative.html

Modifier 24 (Unrelated Evaluation and Management Service by the Same Physician During a Postoperative Period)

The Physician may need to indicate that an evaluation and management service was performed during a postoperative period for a reason(s) unrelated to the original procedure. This circumstance may be reported by adding modifier 24 to the appropriate level of E&M service. From a coding perspective, Modifier 24 is appropriate when a physician provides a surgical service related to one problem and, during the postoperative period or follow-up care for the surgery, provides and E&M service unrelated to the problem requiring the surgery.

Modifier 25 (Significant, Separately Identifiable Evaluation and Management Service by the Same Physician on the Same Day of the Procedure or Other Service)

It may be necessary to indicate that on the day a procedure or service identified by CPT code was performed, the patient's condition required a significant, separately identifiable E&M service above and beyond the other service provided or beyond the usual preoperative and postoperative care associated with the procedure that was performed. A significant, separately identifiable E&M service is defined or substantiated by documentation that satisfies the relevant criteria for the respective E&M service to be reported.

Modifier 59 (Distinct Procedural Service)

Under certain circumstances, the physician may need to indicate that a procedure or service was distinct or independent from other non E&M services performed on the same day. Modifier 59 is used to identify procedures/services, other than E&M services that are not normally reported together, but are appropriate under the circumstances. This may represent a different session or patient encounter, different procedure or surgery, different site or organ system, separate incision/excision, separate lesion, or separate injury (or area of injury in extensive injuries) not ordinarily encountered or performed on the same day by the same physician. However, when another already established modifier is appropriate, it should be used rather than modifier 59. Only if no more descriptive modifier is available, and the use of modifier 59 best explains the circumstances, should modifier 59 be used.

Modifier 76 (Repeat Procedure by Same Physician)

The physician may need to indicate that a procedure or service was repeated subsequent to the original procedure or service. This circumstance may be reported by adding the modifier 76 to the repeated procedure/service. From a coding perspective, modifier 76 is intended to describe the same procedure or service repeated, rather than the same procedure being performed at multiple sites.

Modifier 78 (Return to the Operating Room for a Related Procedure During the Postoperative Period)

It may be necessary to indicate that another procedure was performed during the postoperative period of the initial procedure. When the subsequent procedure is related to the first, and requires the use of the operating room, it may be reported by adding the modifier 78 to the related procedure. Modifier 78 is not used for procedures that indicate in the code descriptor “subsequent, related or redo.”

Modifiers 80, 81, 82 and AS (Assistant-at-Surgery Modifiers)

An assistant-at-surgery serves as an additional pair hands for the operating surgeon. Assistants-at-surgery do not carry primary responsibility for or “perform distinct parts” of the surgical procedure. Assistant-at-surgery coverage is limited to fully qualified physicians and non-physician practitioner (i.e., PAs, CRNP, etc) if it is within the scope of their licenses.

- **Modifier 80** – Assistant surgeon
- **Modifier 81** – Minimum assistant surgeon
- **Modifier 82** – Assistant surgeon (when qualified resident surgeon not available)
- **Modifier AS** – Physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist for assistant at surgery.

Modifier Q5 (Service Performed by a Substitute Physician under a Reciprocal Billing Agreement)

Under certain circumstances, the physician may need to indicate that a service was provided by a substitute physician. Modifier Q5 is reported when the regular physician arranges for a substitute physician to furnish services on an occasional reciprocal basis. Modifier Q5 should be appended after the procedure code to indicate that the service was provided by a substitute physician under a reciprocal arrangement. When appending modifier Q5, the regular provider is certifying that the services are covered services furnished by the substitute physician. The regular physician should keep a record on file of each service provided by the substitute physician and make this record available to Medicaid upon request.

Modifier Q6 (Service Furnished by a Locum Tenens Physician)

Under certain circumstances, the physician may need to indicate that a service was provided by a locum tenens physician. A locum tenens physician generally has no practice of his/her own; he/she usually moves from area to area as needed. The regular physician generally pays the substitute physician a fixed per diem amount or other fee-for-time compensation, with the locum tenens physician having a status of an independent contractor rather than of an employee. Modifier Q6 should be appended after the procedure code to indicate that the service was provided by a locum tenens physician. The regular physician should keep a record on file of each service provided by the locum tenens physician and make this record available to Medicaid upon request.

Bilateral Procedures

Effective for dates of adjudication October 1, 2006 and thereafter the procedure for billing bilateral procedures changed. In the past, (through September 30, 2006), providers were instructed to bill for bilateral procedures on one line with modifier 50. The reimbursement was adjusted to 150% of Medicaid's fee schedule.

Effective for dates of adjudication October 1, 2006 and thereafter, the new procedure is as follows:

- Bill the appropriate procedure code on 2 separate lines with RT and LT modifier, or other appropriate anatomical modifier,
- Modifier 50 will be used for informational purposes only and is no longer a pricing modifier.
- The payment will be 100% of Medicaid fee schedule for first line and 50% for second line.
- Claims will be subject to multiple surgery payment adjustments for multiple procedures.

Example:

Line 1: 27558 RT
27558 LT; 50 (Optional use of modifier 50)

Alabama Medicaid utilizes Medicare's RVU file to determine whether a 50 modifier, or RT and LT modifier should be allowed with the procedure code billed. When an inappropriate procedure code is billed with modifier 50, or RT and LT modifier, the claim will deny.

NOTE:
When Medicaid payment occurs for a procedure code billed inappropriately with modifier 50, AND/OR RT (right) AND/OR LT (left), the claim will be subject to a system adjustment in payment, post payment review, and recoupment.

Procedure Codes

The CPT manual lists most procedure codes required by Medicaid. This manual may be obtained by contacting the Order Department, American Medical Association, 515 North State Street, Chicago, IL 60610-9986. The (837) Professional electronic claim and the paper claim have been modified to accept up to four Procedure Code Modifiers.

NOTE:
Unlisted procedure codes are not covered by the Agency unless the provider requested and received approval for a prior authorization before the service is rendered. The Agency will deny all requests for payment of unlisted codes after the fact.

Physician-Employed Physician Assistants (PA) and Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners (CRNP)

CRNP and PA payment will be made only for CPT codes identified in Appendix O, physician administered drugs, and laboratory services, (must be CLIA certified). EPSDT screenings will be covered only if the provider is enrolled in that program. Refer to Appendix A, EPSDT, for EPSDT program requirements.

The Physician's Assistant or CRNP can make physician required inpatient visits to nursing facilities. However, physician required inpatient visits to hospitals or other institutional settings cannot be made by a PA or CRNP. CRNP and PA services have been expanded. Please refer to Appendix O for additional information.

Global Surgical Packages

Effective for dates of adjudication 10/1/06 and thereafter, Medicaid will adopt Medicare’s RVU file designation for global surgical days. In the past and through date of adjudication September 30, 2006, Medicaid has used a 62 day post op period after major surgeries.

Effective for dates of adjudication 10/1/06 and thereafter, Medicaid will use a zero, 10 day, and 90 day post op period for routine surgical care. Routine post-surgical care in the hospital or office setting for conditions directly related to surgical procedures is covered by the surgical fee. Depending on post operative period, post-surgical visits cannot be billed separately the day of, or up to 90 days after surgery.

For conditions unrelated to the surgical procedure bill the appropriate (E&M) procedure code with a 24 modifier appended. The diagnosis must support use of the modifier 24.

Claims for these services will be subject to post payment review.

Refer to this Medicare RVU file:
https://www.cms.gov/PhysicianFeeSched/PFSRVF/list.asp#TopOfPage for global surgical procedure codes Zero, 10 and 90 day(s) post operative period.

Professional and Technical Components

Some procedure codes in the 70000, 80000, 90000, and G series are a combination of a professional component and a technical component. Therefore, these codes may be billed one of three different ways; (1) as a global, (2) as a professional component, or (3) as a technical component. NOTE: Not all providers are allowed to bill any or all of the three ways to bill. Specific coverage questions should be addressed to the Provider Assistance Center.

- **Global**, the provider must own the equipment, pay the technician, review the results, and provide a written report of the findings. The procedure code is billed with no modifiers. The Global component should be billed only for the following place of service locations:
  - 11 (Office)
  - 81 (Independent Laboratory)
- **Professional component**, the provider does not own or operate the equipment. The provider reviews the results, and provides a written report of the findings. The Radiological professional component is billed by adding modifier 26 to the procedure code, and should be billed only for the following place of service locations:
  - 21 (inpatient hospital)
  - 22 (outpatient hospital)
  - 23 (emergency room - hospital)
  - 51 (inpatient psychiatric facility)
  - 61 (comprehensive inpatient rehab facility)
  - 62 (comprehensive outpatient rehab facility)
  - 65 (end-stage renal disease facility)
  - 81 (Independent Laboratory)
- **Technical component**, the provider must own the equipment, but does not review and document the results. The technical component charges are the facility's charges and are not billed separately by physicians. The technical component is billed by adding modifier TC to the procedure code. The technical component can only be billed by facilities.

28.6.4 Billing for Patient 1st Referred Service

Please refer to Chapter 39 for information regarding the Patient 1st Program and Patient 1st referrals. Please refer to Chapter 5, Filing Claims, for information regarding filing claims for a Patient 1st referral.

28.6.5 Place of Service Codes

The following place of service codes apply when filing claims for physicians:

POS	*Description*
11	Office
12	Home
21	Inpatient Hospital
22	Outpatient Hospital

POS	Description
23	Emergency Room - Hospital
24	Ambulatory Surgical Center
25	Birthing Center
26	Military Treatment Facility
31	Skilled Nursing Facility or Nursing Facility
32	Nursing Facility
33	Custodial Care Facility
34	Hospice
41	Ambulance - Land
42	Ambulance - Air or water
51	Inpatient Psychiatric Facility
52	Psy. Fac. Partial Hospitalization
53	Community Mental Health Center
54	Intermediate Care Fac./Mentally Retarded
55	Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Facility
56	Psychiatric Residential Treatment Center
61	Comprehensive Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility
62	Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility
65	End Stage Renal Disease Treatment Facility
71	State or Local Public Health Clinic
72	Rural Health Clinic

28.6.6 Required Attachments

To enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of Medicaid processing, your attachments should be limited to the following circumstances:

- Claims With Third Party Denials

NOTE:

When an attachment is required, a hard copy CMS-1500 claim form must be submitted.

Refer to Section 5.7, Required Attachments, for more information on attachments.

28.6.7 Consent Forms Required Before Payments Can Be Made

NOTE:

HP will NOT pay any claims to ANY provider until a correctly completed original of the appropriate form is on file at HP. Please note, **only the surgeon** should submit consent forms to HP. All other providers should not request and or submit copies of the consent form. Multiple copies slow down the consent form review and claims payment process.

Abortions

In accordance with federal law, abortions are covered only (1) if the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest; or (2) where a woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, that would, as certified by a physician, place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed.

Please refer to Appendix E, Medicaid Forms, for a copy of the PHY-96-2 Certification and Documentation for Abortion form, which is used when the pregnancy is causing the life of the mother to be in danger. In the case of abortions performed secondary to pregnancies resulting from rape or incest, the documentation required is a letter from the recipient or provider certifying that the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest.

- The original copy of the PHY-96-2 form (for life of the mother in danger) signed by the attending physician, or the certification letter regarding rape or incest, and a copy of the medical records (history and physical, operative report and discharge summary) must be submitted to HP.
- The second copy of the consent form or certification letter must be placed in the recipient's medical record.

All claims relating to abortions must have the above-specified documentation on file at HP prior to payment.

This documentation is not required when a recipient presents with a spontaneous abortion.

If the recipient does not qualify for payment by Medicaid and elects to have the abortion, providers may bill the recipient for the abortion as a non-covered service.

Sterilization

HP must have on file the Medicaid-approved sterilization form. Refer to Appendix C, Family Planning, for more information.

Sterilization by Hysterectomy

Payment is not available for a hysterectomy if:

1. **It was performed solely for the purpose of rendering an individual permanently incapable of reproducing**
2. **If there was more than one purpose to the procedure, it would not have been performed but for the purpose of rendering the individual permanently incapable of reproducing**

NOTE:
Sterilization performed for the sole purpose of rendering a person permanently incapable of reproducing is not available to persons under twenty-one (21) years of age under the Medicaid Program.

Refer to Appendix E, Medicaid Forms, for a sample of the sterilization form.

Hysterectomy

Hysterectomy procedures performed for the sole purpose of rendering an individual incapable of reproducing are not covered under Medicaid. Hysterectomies done as a medical necessity as treatment of disease can be paid for by the Medicaid funds under the physician's program.

The hysterectomy consent form was revised to include a section for unusual circumstances. This form should be used by a physician to certify a patient was already sterile when the hysterectomy was performed; a hysterectomy was performed under a life threatening situation; or a hysterectomy was performed under a period of retroactive Medicaid eligibility. In all of these circumstances, medical records must be forwarded to HP along with the hysterectomy consent form and claim(s) in order for a State review to be performed.

NOTE:

The **doctor's explanation** to the patient that the operation will make her sterile and the **doctor's and recipient's signature** must precede the operation except in the case of medical emergency. If a field is missing, contains invalid information or indicates the recipient/representative or physician signed after the date of surgery, HP will return the consent form to the provider to correct invalid information.

HP must have on file a Medicaid-approved Hysterectomy Consent Form. The revised hysterectomy consent form (form # PHY-81243) became effective January 1, 2004. Instructions for completing the consent form are on the back of the consent form. See Appendix E, Medicaid Forms, or visit our website for a sample copy of this form.

Exceptions That Do Not Require Prior Completion of the Consent Form

In the following situations, the consent form is required and section IV of the consent form must be completed.

1. The physician who performed the hysterectomy certifies in writing that the patient was already sterile when the hysterectomy was performed; the cause of sterility must be stated in this written statement. Refer to Section IV on the consent form.
2. The physician who performed the hysterectomy certifies in writing that the hysterectomy was performed under a life-threatening emergency situation in which prior acknowledgement was not possible. This written statement must include a description of the nature of the emergency. Refer to Section IV on the consent form.
3. The hysterectomy was performed during a period of retroactive Medicaid eligibility, and the physician who performed the hysterectomy submits, in lieu of the consent form, a written statement certifying that the individual was informed before the operation that the hysterectomy would make her sterile. Refer to Section IV on the consent form.

NOTE:

Medicaid payment cannot be made for any claims for services provided in connection with an abortion, a sterilization procedure or a hysterectomy for medical reasons unless an approved consent form is on file. Please be aware consent for sterilization is different from consent for hysterectomy. See Appendix E, Medicaid Forms, for examples of each.

28.6 For More Information

This section contains a cross-reference to other relevant sections in the manual.

Resource	Where to Find It
CMS-1500 Claim Filing Instructions	Section 5.2
Medical Medicaid/Medicare-related Claim Filing Instructions	Section 5.6.1
Anesthesiology	Chapter 38
EPSDT	Appendix A
Electronic Media Claims (EMC) Submission Guidelines	Appendix B
Family Planning	Appendix C
Alabama Medicaid Injectable Drug List	Medicaid website
AVRS Quick Reference Guide	Appendix L
Alabama Medicaid Contact Information	Appendix N
CRNP and PA Services	Appendix O

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