Billing and Reimbursement Guideline: Exploratory Surgery

Guideline Publication Date: September 1, 2010

Key coding, documentation and reimbursement points include:

- Separate payment is not allowed for exploratory surgical procedures when billed in addition to a more significant primary abdominal surgical procedure(s).

- Exploratory surgery is considered incidental to the primary procedure.

- Exploration of intra-abdominal organs and structures for systemic examination, which results in surgery, is not payable.

- Modifier 59 may be used to indicate a separately identifiable service.

- This guideline applies to CMS-1500 claim submissions.

- This guideline applies to place of service 21, 22 and 24.

Please refer to Neighborhood’s provider website at http://www.nhpri.org for specific provisions by product line.

This guideline is not a guarantee of reimbursement. Plan coverage, eligibility and claim payment edit rules may apply.

Version History
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