![Providence Health Plan logo]

Coding Policy Alerts

September/October 2022

This is the September/October 2022 issue of Providence Health Plan's Coding Policy Alerts. The focus of this update is to communicate to providers new or revised payment policies and coding policies, as well as general billing and coding information.

CODING POLICY INFORMATION

Coding Policy 65.0 (Guidelines for Billing Consultations)	Providers are referred to PHP Coding Policy 65.0 (Guidelines for Billing Consultations) for information about how to report consultations to PHP. PHP has not recognized CPT consultation codes (99241-99245 and 99251-99255) since January, 1, 2011. PHP follows CMS guidelines for billing consultations. When a consult is provided in the office or other outpatient setting, physicians and qualified non-physician practitioners may use CPT codes for outpatient E/M visits. When a consult is provided in an inpatient or nursing facility setting, physicians and qualified non-physician practitioners may use CPT codes for inpatient or nursing facility E/M visits. See Coding Policy 65.0 for details. This policy is available on ProvLink, both above and below the login.

CODING/BILLING INFORMATION

Billing for Vaginal Hysterectomy vs. Laparoscopic Vaginal Hysterectomy	PHP has noticed confusion between codes used to report laparoscopic hysterectomy (CPT codes 58570-58573) and codes used to report laparoscopic hysterectomy with vaginal hysterectomy (CPT codes 58550-58554). CPT® Assistant, August 2021, Volume 31, Issue 8 has guidance for differentiating between these two types of hysterectomy codes. This article states, "The primary difference between the two types of codes is the method of detaching the structures rather than the route of structure extraction." Codes for laparoscopic hysterectomy (CPT codes 58570-58573) are used when the entire procedure for detaching the cervix and uterine body from surrounding supporting structures is performed laparoscopically. The structures may be removed either through the vagina or through the abdomen. Even if the structures are removed through the vagina, the procedure is considered laparoscopic hysterectomy. Codes for laparoscopic with vaginal hysterectomy (CPT codes 58550-58554) are used when the procedure for detaching the upper uterine body is performed through the laparoscope, and the work for detaching the cervix or lower uterine body is performed through the vagina, and the structures are removed through the vagina. These codes should be used only if a portion of the work of detaching the structures is performed through the vagina.