



Home Health Services

Reimbursement Policy ID: RPC.0100.7700

Recent review date: 11/2024

Next review date: 07/2026

AmeriHealth Caritas Ohio reimbursement policies and their resulting edits are based on guidelines from established industry sources, such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the American Medical Association (AMA), state and federal regulatory agencies, and medical specialty professional societies. Reimbursement policies are intended as a general reference and do not constitute a contract or other guarantee of payment. AmeriHealth Caritas Ohio may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying its policies to services provided in a particular case and may modify its policies at any time.

In making claim payment determinations, the health plan also uses coding terminology and methodologies based on accepted industry standards, including Current Procedural Terminology (CPT); the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS); and the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM), and other relevant sources. Other factors that may affect payment include medical record documentation, legislative or regulatory mandates, a provider's contract, a member's eligibility in receiving covered services, submission of clean claims, other health plan policies, and other relevant factors. These factors may supplement, modify, or in some cases supersede reimbursement policies.

This reimbursement policy applies to all health care services billed on a CMS-1500 form or its electronic equivalent, or when billed on a UB-04 form or its electronic equivalent.

To the extent that any procedure and/or diagnosis codes are specified in this policy, such inclusion is provided for reference purposes only, may not be all inclusive, and is not intended to serve as billing instructions. Listing of a code in this policy does not imply that the service described by the code is a covered or non-covered health service. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by federal, state, or contractual requirements and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment. Other Policies and Guidelines may apply.

Policy Overview

This policy outlines guidelines for reimbursement of home health services, place of service (POS) 12.

Exceptions

Home health care services rendered on the dates of inpatient admission and discharge may be reimbursed.

Reimbursement Guidelines

Home health care services include home health nursing, home health aide services and skilled therapies. Home health care services are not reimbursable for POS 12 (home) during an inpatient stay.

Home health services are reimbursable only if a qualifying treating physician, advance practice nurse or physician assistant certifying the need for home health services documents that he or she had a face-to-face encounter with the individual within ninety days prior to the start of care date, or within thirty days following the start of care date.

MCHHA must assure and document that members meet all requirements prior to increasing home health visits. The provider must use the U5 modifier prior to increasing visits. The U5 modifier indicates that all conditions are met to receive the increase of home health visits.

1. The member is under age twenty-one and requires services for treatment.
2. Needs more than, as ordered by the treating clinician:
 - a. Eight hours per day of any home health service, or a combined total of fourteen hours per week of home health aide and home health nursing
 - b. A combined total of twenty-eight hours per week of home health nursing and home health aide for sixty days.

Please refer to <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-5160-12-05> for home health rates.

AmeriHealth Caritas Ohio covers home infusion procedures and services. Certain services greater than \$750 require authorization (routine services/repair of infusion device, catheter supplies/repair).

AmeriHealth Caritas Ohio members are eligible for hospice if the following criteria is met:

- Be certified terminally ill by a qualifying medical professional
- Elect hospice care in a written statement
- Initiate a hospice plan of care
- Receive care from an appropriately licensed hospice agency or inpatient hospice program.

Prior authorization is required for procedure S9125 (Respite care, in the home, per diem) and T2044-T2046 (Inpatient, general inpatient, long term care per diem) with no limitations. Please refer to <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-5160-56-05> and <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-5160-56-06> for more information on hospice.

Skilled nursing services

Skilled nursing services are provided to a person in the home for the purpose of restoring and maintaining his or her maximal level of function and health. These services are rendered in lieu of hospitalization, confinement in an extended care facility, or going outside of the home for services. Skilled nursing services must be prescribed by a physician and be medically necessary for the member's illness or injury. Please reference OAC 5160-3- <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/chapter-5160-3>

Physical, occupational and speech therapy

AmeriHealth Caritas Ohio may cover in-home therapy services depending on the member's needs. Skilled therapies are considered reimbursable when prescribed by a physician for homebound patients to improve, develop or restore physical functions lost due to illness or injury. Please refer to <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-5160-12-05> for billing and reimbursement of therapy.

Home health care services

A home health aide is a provider who assists a member with non-skilled care to meet activities of daily living, thereby maintaining the individual in his or her home environment. Services provided by home health aides may include:

- Personal care
- Assisting with a prescribed exercise regimen that supports skilled therapies but does not require the skills of a therapist.
- Assisting with activities of daily living
- Changing non-sterile dressings that do not require the skills of a licensed nurse
- Routine care of prosthetic and orthotic devices
- Supervising the individual's adherence to prescribed, self-administered medications and/or special diets
- Taking blood pressure and other health monitoring activities

Home health services may have limitations of services, visits and may require prior authorization. Refer to your provider manual and/or the following link for authorization requirements <https://www.amerithealthcaritasoh.com/provider/resources/prior-auth.aspx>.

Electronic visit verification guidelines may apply to personal care services or home health care services. Check with AmeriHealth Caritas Ohio for complete guidelines, found at <https://medicaid.ohio.gov/resources-for-providers/special-programs-and-initiatives/electronic-visit-verification>. See also reimbursement policy Electronic Visit Verification (RPC.0090.7700).

Definitions

Home health care

Medical care delivered in the patient's home, when the patient is homebound while recovering from an illness, surgery or injury or has a chronic medical condition.

Place of service (POS)

A two-digit code used on health care professional claims to indicate the setting in which a service was provided.

Durable medical equipment (DME)

DME is equipment that can withstand repeated use (at least three years) and is used in the home for a medical reason when someone is sick or injured.

Edit Sources

- I. Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) and associated publications and services.
- II. International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10).
- III. Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS).
- IV. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
- V. The National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI).
- VI. Ohio Medicaid Fee Schedule(s).
- VII. <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-5160-12-05>
- VIII. <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-5160-12-06>
- IX. <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-5160-56-02>
- X. <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-5160-12-01>
- XI. <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-5160-56-05>
- XII. <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-5160-56-06>

Attachments

N/A

Associated Policies

RPC.0090.7700- Electronic Visit Verification

Policy History

06/2025	Minor updates to formatting and syntax
04/2025	Revised preamble
11/2024	Reimbursement Policy Committee Approval
04/2024	Revised preamble
08/2023	Removal of policy implemented by AmeriHealth Caritas Ohio from Policy History section
01/2023	Template Revised <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revised preamble• Removal of Applicable Claim Types table• Coding section renamed to Reimbursement Guidelines• Added Associated Policies section