Subject: Moderate (Conscious) Sedation

CT Policy: 0014  Effective: 01/01/2017

Coverage is subject to the terms, conditions, and limitations of an individual member’s programs or products and policy criteria listed below. This reimbursement policy also applies to Employer Group Retiree Medicare Advantage programs.

Description
Moderate sedation is a state of decreased consciousness that is achieved through the administration of sedative and/or analgesic medication. This lowered level of consciousness is intended to facilitate the successful performance of a surgical, therapeutic, or diagnostic procedure by allaying patient anxiety and controlling pain. Vital breathing and cardiac reflex functions are maintained and can the patient is able to respond to verbal commands.

This policy documents the Health Plan’s reimbursement and reporting guidelines for CMS-1500 submitters who report moderate (conscious) sedation services.

Policy
The Health Plan incorporates moderate (conscious) sedation into the reimbursement for certain Health Plan designated surgical, diagnostic, or therapeutic procedures. Such sedation is not eligible for separate reimbursement when reported by the physician or other qualified health care professional performing one of these Health Plan designated procedures because the Health Plan considers the sedation service to be an inherent part of providing the designated procedures. These Health Plan designated procedures were previously listed in the deleted 2016 Appendix G of the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) codebook. Modifiers will not override the edits.

To reference the list of designated procedures the Health Plan considers moderate (conscious) sedation to be included with when reported by the physician or other qualified health care professional performing one of the Health Plan designated procedures, please close out of this policy and refer to the excel link titled “Anthem Designated Procedures that Include Moderate (Conscious) Sedation.”

In addition, the Health Plan considers the following services to be included in the reimbursement for moderate sedation and not eligible for separate reimbursement:

- Assessment of the patient (not included in intraservice time)
- Assessment of the patient (not included in intraservice time)
- Establishment of IV access and fluids when performed to maintain patency
- Administration of agent(s)
- Maintenance of sedation
- Monitoring of oxygen saturation, heart rate and blood pressure
- Recovery (not included in intraservice time)
Intraservice time starts with the administration of the sedation agent(s), continues with direct (face-to-face) attendance, and ends at the close of personal contact with the patient by the physician or other qualified health care professional providing the sedation.

Moderate sedation administered by a physician or other qualified health care professional that is not performing the surgical, diagnostic, or therapeutic procedure is not eligible for reimbursement when administered in a nonfacility setting such as a provider’s office or a clinic.

**Coding**
The following is provided as an informational tool only. The inclusion or exclusion of a specific code does not guarantee reimbursement and/or coverage (e.g., when 99151 is reported by the rendering physician or other qualified health care professional with a procedure code identified in the Health Plan designated procedures code list, 99151 will not be eligible for separate reimbursement).

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>99151</td>
<td>Moderate sedation services provided by the same physician or other qualified health care professional performing the diagnostic or therapeutic service that the sedation supports, requiring the presence of an independent trained observer to assist in the monitoring of the patient’s level of consciousness and physiological status; initial 15 minutes of intraservice time, patient younger than 5 years of age</td>
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<tr>
<td>99152</td>
<td>Moderate sedation services provided by the same physician or other qualified health care professional performing the diagnostic or therapeutic service that the sedation supports, requiring the presence of an independent trained observer to assist in the monitoring of the patient’s level of consciousness and physiological status; initial 15 minutes of intraservice time, patient age 5 years or older</td>
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<tr>
<td>99153</td>
<td>Moderate sedation services provided by the same physician or other qualified health care professional performing the diagnostic or therapeutic service that the sedation supports, requiring the presence of an independent trained observer to assist in the monitoring of the patient’s level of consciousness and physiological status; each additional 15 minutes intraservice time (List separately in addition to code for primary service)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99155</td>
<td>Moderate sedation services provided by the same physician or other qualified health care professional performing the diagnostic or therapeutic service that the sedation supports, requiring the presence of an independent trained observer to assist in the monitoring of the patient’s level of consciousness and physiological status; each additional 15 minutes intraservice time (List separately in addition to code for primary service)</td>
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<tr>
<td>99156</td>
<td>Moderate sedation services provided by a physician or other qualified health care professional other than the physician or other qualified health care professional performing the diagnostic or therapeutic service that the</td>
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Commercial Professional Reimbursement Policy

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<td>99157</td>
<td>Moderate sedation services provided by a physician or other qualified health care professional other than the physician or other qualified health care professional performing the diagnostic or therapeutic service that the sedation supports; each additional 15 minutes of intraservice time (List separately in addition to code for primary service)</td>
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Use of Reimbursement Policy:
This policy is subject to federal and state laws, to the extent applicable, as well as the terms, conditions, and limitations of a member’s benefits on the date of service. Reimbursement Policy is constantly evolving and we reserve the right to review and update these policies periodically.

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