

Acupuncture Policy – Commercial (HMO/POS)

Values

Accountability • Integrity • Service Excellence • Innovation • Collaboration

Abstract Purpose:

This reimbursement policy outlines Network Health’s process for the Commercial (HMO/POS) product when acupuncture services are provided by acupuncture providers. Acupuncture services are excluded for our Assure and Health Insurance Exchange products.

Policy Detail:

Network Health will provide acupuncture benefits if the following criteria is met:

- Medical necessity requirements
- Prior authorization requirements
- Claims billing requirements

If the above criteria has been met, Network Health claims editing software will apply clinical edits based on standard industry practice according to Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) coding guidelines, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) guidelines, National Correct Coding Initiative edits (NCCI), and other specialty medical society determinations.

CPT/HCPC CODE	DESCRIPTION	MAX FREQUENCY
97810	Acupuncture, 1 or more needles; without electrical stimulation, initial 15 minutes of personal one-on-one contact with patient	1
97811	Acupuncture, 1 or more needles; without electrical stimulation, each additional 15 minutes of personal one-on-one contact with the patient, with re-insertion of needle(s)	95
97813	Acupuncture, 1 or more needles; with electrical stimulation, initial 15 minutes of personal one-on-one contact with the patient	1
97814	Acupuncture, 1 or more needles; with electrical stimulation, each additional 15 minutes of personal one-on-one contact with the patient, with re-insertion of needle(s)	95
S8930	Electrical Stimulation of auricular acupuncture points; each 15 minutes of personal one-on-one contact with patient	96

**CPT codes are subject to change as codes are retired or new ones developed.*

If a CPT/HCPC Code is billed outside of the above listed table of codes; the service will be denied provider liability with Claim Adjustment Reason Code (CARC) Code 8 “*The procedure code is inconsistent with the provider type/specialty (taxonomy)*”.

Definitions:

Acupuncture is the practice of piercing the skin with needles at specific body sites to induce anesthesia, relieve pain and/or treat various non-painful disorders. In acupuncture, the placement of needles into the skin is dictated by the location of the meridians. These meridians are thought to mark patterns of energy flow throughout the body. Acupuncture points are near major nerves and stimulate the peripheral and central nervous system, affecting neurotransmitter levels and altering pain processing.

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