



October 3, 2013

Montana Health Care Programs Notice

Physicians, Mid-Level Practitioners, Hospitals

Mid-Level Provider Services in a NICU Setting

Effective October 1, 2013, Montana Medicaid will reimburse for mid-level professional services rendered in a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU).

Mid-level practitioners include physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs). APRNs include nurse practitioners, nurse anesthetists, nurse midwives, and clinical nurse specialists. Mid-level practitioners are health care providers described in ARM. 37.86.201–37.86.205.

History

At one time all professional services performed in a NICU were performed by physicians. That business model has changed over time and some of these services are now performed by specially trained mid-level providers. This change in business model will now be reflected in the Medicaid fee schedule by the addition of procedure codes that specially trained mid-level providers will be permitted to bill.

Mid-level providers will be required to practice within the scope of their license. These professional services must also be performed in a NICU recognized by DPHHS.

Other RN or LPN nursing services performed in a NICU may in part include performing care, administering medications, holding for x-rays, drawing blood work, starting peripheral IV, caring for infants with chest tubes, and caring for infants with advanced airways. These services are not billable separately. They are considered nursing services and these costs would be included as a reimbursable nursing cost on hospital cost reports.

Professional services typically performed by a specially trained mid-level practitioner in a NICU may include ordering care, ordering medications, ordering and interpreting x-rays, ordering and interpreting lab work, inserting central lines, inserting chest tubes, performing lumbar punctures, placing advanced airways, and managing ventilator settings. These services will now receive separate reimbursement. These costs should be reclassified to a non-reimbursable section of the hospital cost report.

These services will appear on the January 1, 2014 fee schedule. In the interim, refer to the Physician fee schedule to determine the reimbursement amount for these services.

Contact Information

If you have questions about this provider notice, contact Bob Wallace at 406.444.5778.

For claims questions or additional information, contact Provider Relations at 1.800.624.3958 (toll-free, in/out of state) or 406.442.1837 (Helena) or via e-mail at MTPRHelpdesk@xerox.com. Visit the Montana Medicaid Provider Information website at <http://medicaidprovider.hhs.mt.gov>.