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| <b>Physicians' Billing Office</b>               |  |  |
| <b>SECTION:</b>                                 | CODING                                   | POLICY NUMBER: C502   |
| <b>POLICY TITLE:</b>                            | <b>CONSULTATION BILLING FOR MEDICARE</b> | PAGE: 1 of 2  |
| <b>APPROVALS:</b> FPG B&F Committee: 03/08/2010 | PBO: 03/08/2010                          | ISSUED: 01/01/2010<br>EFFECTIVE: 03/08/2010   |
| <b>SUPERSEDES: N/A</b>                          |  |   |

**PURPOSE:**

1. To promote and ensure **compliance** with CMS correct coding and reimbursement guidelines.
2. To improve the **efficiency** of PBO coding, billing and collection processes.
3. To maximize **reimbursement** for services by utilizing proper replacement of consultation CPT codes.
4. To safeguard UCLA FPG accounts receivable from loss of revenue from payment denials based on the improper use consultation CPT codes.

**POLICY:**

1. It is the policy of FPG PBO to bill for consultation services consistent with payor coding and billing guidelines.
2. PBO will not bill CPT codes 99241-99245 (outpatient consultation) and 99251-99255 (inpatient consultation) to Medicare (including Railroad Medicare). These codes must be replaced with other evaluation and management codes, such as 99201-99205 (new patient visits), 99211-99215 (established patient visits), 99221-99223(initial inpatient hospital visits), 99304-99306 (nursing facility visits).
3. E/M codes replacing consultation codes for Medicare (including Railroad Medicare) must be coded consistent with E/M documentation and coding guidelines.

**POLICY CROSS REFERENCES:**

N/A


**APPLICABILITY:**

This policy applies only to FPG PBO Customers.

**MONITORING / ACCOUNTABILITY:**

Each PBO billing unit must conduct frequent, regularly scheduled quality reviews to ensure adherence with this policy. Immediate corrective actions must be taken as necessary. These may include:

- a) Training and re-training of staff;
- b) Disciplinary actions;
- c) Escalating non-compliance to PBO director.

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| <b>SUPERSEDES: N/A</b>   |  |   |

**COGNIZANT OFFICE:**

For interpretations of this policy, resolution of problems and special situations, contact:

Grace Barba  
 Director of Physician Billing Office  
[gbarba@mednet.ucla.edu](mailto:gbarba@mednet.ucla.edu)

**POLICY AUTHORITY:**

UCLA Faculty Practice Group

**REVISION HISTORY:**

Original Policy issued:                      01/01/2010

Revisions:                                      None

**REFERENCES:**

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Federal Register