



September 11, 2020

To: WSMGMA Members

The following guidance was compiled by WSMGMA in collaboration with Premera Blue Cross.

Premera Blue Cross: Reimbursement Policy for PPE costs

Background:

Premera Blue Cross and its subsidiaries have made a determination to follow CMS guidelines, and has been allowing for separate reimbursement for PPE over the past several months when billed appropriately. Premera will be following this practice through the end of October, 2020.

Billing:

Premera did not send out specific guidance regarding the payment for PPE, but was paying if billed using the appropriate HCPCS codes for miscellaneous supplies. This policy applies to dates of service on or before November 1.

For dates of service on or after November 1, Premera will consider such supplies to be included in the standard office visit reimbursement. Premera will no longer pay separately for such equipment, but will resume the prior policy of considering such equipment to be part of the services covered under standard office visit codes. PPE will no longer be reimbursed as of dates of service on November 1, 2020 and after.

Notice to providers (90-day notice) was published July 16, 2020 in PROVIDER NEWS in the section "Reminders and Updates; here is the link:

<https://www.premera.com/wa/provider/news/reminders-updates/personal-protective-equipment/>

Providers should correctly code for PPE using [HCPCS codes \(A-series of codes \)](#) for coverage of gowns and masks. Premera notes that the "A" codes typically billed for such miscellaneous supplies are:

- A4927 – Gloves, non-sterile
- A4928 – Surgical Masks
- A4930 – Gloves, sterile

Practices should submit their standard charges or acquisition costs for each visit, and each contract will either have a set fee (not to exceed billed charges), or a default percentage.

All other "miscellaneous codes" billed will potentially incur a "denial", not for PPE but for other reasons. Dentists should correctly code using D1999.

Providers can access a copy of the policy out on [OneHealthPort website](#).

(This login page requires that you have registered as a OneHealthPort Subscriber.)

Claims already submitted without separate PPE charges:

Practices that were not aware of Premera's policy can be reimbursed for those PPE expenses if those charges were not included in claims already submitted. They would need to rebill per the above guidance for dates of service prior to November 1, 2020.

For any further clarifications, please contact Premera Provider service.