



Healthfirst Reimbursement Policies for Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants

Policy Overview

Effective April 1, 2019, Healthfirst will no longer reimburse nurse practitioners (NPs) and physician assistants (PAs) the equivalent of a Doctor of Medicine (MD) or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO). NPs and PAs will be reimbursed 85% of their contract rate for covered services provided to our members. This change is being made to better align with existing Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) reimbursement policies regarding these types of physician extenders.

Definitions

Physician Assistant: a person certified to provide basic medical services, usually under the supervision of a licensed physician. Abbreviation is PA.

Nurse Practitioner: a registered nurse who is qualified through advanced training to assume some of the duties and responsibilities formerly assumed only by a physician. Abbreviation is NP.

Physician Assistant Reimbursement Policy

As of April 1, 2019, Healthfirst reimburses physician assistants at 85% of the physician's allowed amount for covered services. The exception will be Part B drugs (vaccines, flu shots, antibiotics, etc.); these are reimbursed at 100% of the physician's allowed amount.

For assistant-at-surgery services billed with modifier AS, physician assistants will be reimbursed 16% of their allowed amount.

Nurse Practitioner Reimbursement Policy

As of April 1, 2019, Healthfirst reimburses nurse practitioners at 85% of the physician's allowed amount for covered services. The exception will be Part B drugs (vaccines, flu shots, antibiotics, etc.); these are reimbursed at 100% of the physician's allowed amount.

For assistant-at-surgery services billed with modifier AS, nurse practitioners will be reimbursed 16% of their allowed amount.