

Commercial Insurers Policies on Payment for Consultation Codes for 2010

Aetna

Will continue to pay for consultation codes except when secondary to Medicare

Anthem Blue Cross (California)

Will not pay for consult codes under any Medicare plans, but will continue to pay for them for “contracted physicians that have a proprietary fee schedule”

AvMed

No longer accepting consult codes as of February 1.

BCBS of Arkansas

As of April 2010 will no longer pay for consultation codes

BCBS Kansas

Will continue to pay for consultation codes

BCBS of Kansas City

Will continue to pay for consultation codes

BCBS of Michigan

Consult codes eliminated as of July 1, 2010.

BCBS of Rhode Island

Will continue to pay for consultations, except when secondary to Medicare.

BCBS of Utah

Will eliminate consult codes (as will all other commercial payors in UT, according to the Utah Medical Association)

CIGNA

Depends on the plan. For Medicare plans, they will follow Medicare policies. For other plans, they continue to pay consultation codes, but says “We will be monitoring coding patterns to determine if the CMS changes are reflected in the claims we receive on commercial plans are necessary.” [sic] They say they will provide 90 days notice of any policy change.

Coventry

Will continue to pay for consultation codes for both commercial and Medicare plans until April. In April they will no longer recognize consultation codes for Medicare.

Empire BCBS (Wellpoint)

No decision as of 1/6/2010

Excellus

No decision yet for commercial plans, as of April 1 will stop paying for consult codes for Medicare Advantage plans. Will provide 90 day notice of any change to commercial policy.

Health Net (California)

Consult codes eliminated. (800) 216 - 4144 Conference ID#: 76757747

Humana

No decision about commercial plans, will follow CMS for Medicare plans.

QualChoice (Arkansas)

Consult codes eliminated.

Regence Blue Shield (Washington State)

Consult codes eliminated for Medicare plans; for commercial plans will follow Medicare policy when they update to 2010 RVUs (which had not been done as of 1/25/10)

Tricare

No changes.

UHC

Will continue to pay for commercial plans but not for its Medicare Advantage plans

Wellmark (BC/BS of Iowa)

Consult codes eliminated as of July 1, 2010.