

Reimbursement Guide for Nurse Practitioners (NPs) and Physician Assistants (PAs) for in-office services

Definitions:

"Incident to" - Are services provided strictly as a follow up to the physician's plan of care. "Incident to" billing is limited to the office setting. If "incident to" billing is used, the physician must be present in the office at the time of service. Click here					
Direct Supervision - The physician is physically present in the building (in-office), where the service is being rendered. Click here					
Indirect Supervision - The physician is not physically present in the building (not in office) where the service is being rendered. N/A					
	"Incident to"		Not "Incident to"		
	Credentialed	Not Credentialed	Credentialed	Not Credentialed	Link
Aetna (updated 7/24/18)					
Supervision status	Direct supervision.		Direct supervision or indirect supervision.		
Billing Provider	Supervising physician's information would need to be provided.		Rendering provider (NP or PA) information would need to be provided.		Click here (pg. 4)
Required Modifier	No modifier is required.				Click here (pg. 4)
Reimbursement for NPs or PAs.	100% of the physician's contracted rate.		Reimbursement is generally 85% of the physician's contracted rate.		
PA or NP credentialing required?	If the supervising physician has an Aetna group contract, credentialing is not required. If the supervising physician has an		Credentialing required		Form
Follows CMS's guidelines regarding "incident to"?	Yes.		NA		
BlueCross BlueShield of Texas (updated 8/7/2018)					
Supervision status	Direct supervision.		Direct supervision or indirect supervision.		
Billing Provider	Supervising physician's information would need to be provided.		Rendering provider (NP or PA) information would need to be		
Required Modifier	Modifier "SA" is required.		No modifier is required.		Click here
Reimbursement for NPs or PAs.	Reimbursement is generally 85% of the physician's contracted rate.				
PA or NP credentialing required? <small>(Click on the link, expand the "Credentialing Process for Office Based Physicians or Professional Providers" and scroll down to</small>	No credentialing or provider record needed. Forms are required: APN Scope of Practice PA Scope of Practice APN Prescribing Authority PA Prescribing Authority		A provider record ID must be established, but credentialing not required. Claims will be processed as out-of-network. Forms are required (see links to the left)		Click here
Follows CMS's guidelines regarding "incident to"?	No, only uses CMS as a guideline.		NA		
Cigna (updated 8/13/18)					
Supervision status	Direct supervision.		Direct supervision or indirect supervision.		Click here (Look on page 2)

	"Incident to"		Not "Incident to"		
	Credentialed	Not Credentialed	Credentialed	Not Credentialed	Link
Billing Provider	Supervising physician's information would need to be provided.		Rendering provider (NP or PA) information would need to be provided.	Supervising physician's information would need to be provided.	
Required Modifier	Modifier "SA" is required.		No modifier is required.	Modifier "SA" is required.	
Reimbursement for NPs or PAs.	100% of the physician's contracted rate.		Reimbursement is generally 85% of the physician's contracted rate.		
PA or NP credentialing required?	Per Cigna's Provider Services NPs and PAs do not need to be credentialed. Must be listed under the physician's contract.		Credentialing required		NP/PA Credentialing (pg 76)
Follows CMS's guidelines regarding "incident to"?	No.		NA		
Humana (updated 10/2/18)					
Supervision status	Direct supervision.		Direct supervision or indirect supervision.		NA
Billing Provider	Supervising physician's information would need to be provided.		Rendering provider (NP or PA) information would need to be		NA
Required Modifier	No modifier is required.				NA
Reimbursement for NPs or PAs.	100% of the physician's contracted rate.		Reimbursement is contingent on contract terms but is generally 80% to 85% of the physician's contracted rate.		NA
PA or NP credentialing required?	Those serving as PCPs must credential.		NP or PA must be loaded under the physicians contract. Those serving as PCPs must credential.		NA
Follows CMS's guidelines regarding "incident to"?	Yes.		NA		NA
United Healthcare					
Supervision status	Direct supervision.		Direct supervision or Indirect supervision.		Policy
Billing Provider	Supervising physician's information would need to be provided.		Rendering provider (NP or PA) information would need to be provided.	Supervising physician's information would need to be provided.	
Required Modifier	Modifier "SA" is required.		No modifier is required.	Modifier "SA" is required.	
Reimbursement for NPs or PAs.	100% of the physician's contracted rate.		Reimbursement is generally 85% of the physician's contracted rate.		
PA or NP credentialing required?	No		Yes	No	
Follows CMS's guidelines regarding "incident to"?	Yes.		NA		
Medicare					
Supervision status	Direct supervision.		Direct supervision or Indirect supervision.		Click here
Billing Provider	Supervising physician's information would need to be provided.		Rendering provider (NP or PA) information would need to be		Click here

	"Incident to"		Not "Incident to"		
	Credentialed	Not Credentialed	Credentialed	Not Credentialed	Link
Required Modifier	No modifier is required.				Click here
Reimbursement for NPs or PAs.	100% of the physician's contracted rate.		Reimbursement is 85% of the physician's contracted rate.		Click here
PA or NP credentialing required?	No		Yes.		Click here
Follows CMS's guidelines regarding "incident to"?	Yes.		NA		Click here
Medicaid - Nurse Practitioner (NPs) (updated 10/1/18)					
Supervision status	Direct supervision.		Direct supervision or Indirect supervision.	(credentialing required)	NA
Billing Provider	Supervising physician's information would need to be provided.		Rendering provider (NP) information would need to be provided.	(credentialing required)	NA
Required Modifier	Modifier "SA" is required.		No modifier is required.	(credentialing required)	Click here
Reimbursement for NPs	Services are reimbursed at 92% of the physician's rate.			(credentialing required)	Click here
NP credentialing required?	Yes				Click here
Follows CMS's guidelines regarding "incident to"?	The information is implied, but not stated.		NA		NA
Medicaid - Physician Assistant (PAs) (updated 10/1/18)					
Supervision status	Direct supervision.		Direct supervision or Indirect supervision.	(credentialing required)	NA
Billing Provider	Supervising physician's information would need to be provided.		Rendering provider (PA) information would need to be provided.	(credentialing required)	NA
Required Modifier	Modifier "U7" is required.		No modifier is required.	(credentialing required)	Click here
Reimbursement for PAs.	Services are reimbursed at 92% of the physician's rate.			(credentialing required)	Click here
PA credentialing required?	Optional		Yes		Click here
Follows CMS's guidelines regarding "incident to"?	The information is implied, but not stated.		NA		NA

***This information is subject to change without notice. Please refer to your contract and verify conditions with each plan.**