



Activ News June 21, 2024

Ambetter - ICD10 Coding Denials

Ambetter has denied many claims over the past few months because of improper ICD10 coding. The remark code on our Remittance Advice states "DIAGNOSIS CODE INCORRECTLY CODED PER ICD10 MANUAL."

ActivHealthCare reached out to Ambetter and requested a review of those claims. The Coding Team with Ambetter found the denials to be valid. Please see the notes below from the Coding Team's review...

These claims are denying per MEDX edit which indicates that the excluded diagnosis code identified in the ICD-10 Excludes 1 Note should never be used at the same time as the code or code range. Any line where these diagnosis codes are reported together will have the associated procedure code denied.

Examples:

- 1. For claim X099MPEG0606, diagnosis M54.51 and M54.6 excludes 1 note with M51.26*
- 2. Claim X109MPEF1532, Diagnosis M54.17 excludes 1 note with M50.122*
- 3. Claim X108MPE33431, Diagnoses M51.16 and M54.12 are also included in the excludes 1 note.*

The following link:

https://www.icd10data.com/ICD10CM/Analytics/Type1_Excludes_Crosswalk/31
can be utilized to locate the excluded 1 codes.

Please use the link above to see more information on coding exclusions. Also, the ICD10 Code Book provides guidance on which ICD10 codes should not be used together. Please be sure to use it as a reference for coding.

Please submit a corrected claim with the correct ICD10 codes and diagnosis pointers. Instructions on how to submit a correct claim can be found at <https://www.activhealthcare.com/network-resources/training> Be sure to submit corrections quickly and timely.

If you need additional help with coding, we suggest you seek advice from a certified coder. If you are confident your claim was coded properly, you may submit a dispute form to Ambetter. The appropriate form is at www.ActivHealthCare.com/forms.

ActivHealthCare does not provide advice on ICD10 coding beyond what we have offered in this article or what we offered in our August 2, 2023 newsletter, which can be found at <https://www.activhealthcare.com/sites/default/files/pdf/Activ%20News%202023-8-2.pdf>.

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