



May 01, 2015

PROVIDER ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Provider Partner:

Health Choice is committed to continuously improving its claims review and payment processes. This letter is to notify you that we will apply guidelines targeting, but not limited to the appropriate coding of **New Patient Visit** and **Established Patient Visit**. These guidelines are based on coding rules that reflect industry standards, including the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI), as published by CMS and the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) of the American Medical Association. These are the same processes that providers encounter from most other health care claim payers.

The CPT definition of the New Patient and Established Patient for selection of E/M Visit code:

New patient: one who has not received professional services such as an evaluation and management service or other face-to-face service (e.g. surgical procedure) from the physician or qualified health care professional or any other physician or qualified health care professional in the same practice in the exact same specialty and subspecialty in the previous three years. Interpretation of diagnostic test, reading an x-ray or EKG etc, in the absence of an evaluation and management service or other face-to-face service with the patient does not affect the description of a new patient. Examples of the new visit codes though not limited to, are:

- ❖ Office visits; 99201-99205
- ❖ Home visits- 99341-99345
- ❖ Preventive visits- 99381-99387

Established patient: one who has received professional services from the physician or another physician of the same specialty who belongs to the same group practice, within the last 3 years. Examples of established codes though not limited to are:

- ❖ Office visits; 99211-99215
- ❖ Home visits- 99347-99350
- ❖ Preventive visits- 99393-99397

Health Choice believes that proper utilization of these codes will enable us to more effectively implement fair reimbursement guidelines aimed at preventing inappropriate billing.

We appreciate your cooperation and the high quality treatment that you provide to our members in your practice every day.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact your Provider Service Representative @ 480-968-6866.

Thank you.

Provider Network Operations