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PAYMENT POLICY ID NUMBER: 18-060

Original Effective Date: 05/17/2018

Revised: 07/11/2024

Never Event - Wrong Surgery

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DESCRIPTION:

This policy applies to Florida Blue commercial and Medicare Advantage inpatient acute care hospital claims. It applies to all acute care hospitals regardless of participation status with Florida Blue.

Never Events

The National Quality Forum (NQF), a voluntary consensus standard-setting organization, was asked to identify a standardized list of preventable, serious adverse events that would facilitate reporting and data collection of such occurrences. The primary reason for identification of these events and mandatory reporting was to facilitate public accountability for the occurrence of these adverse events in the delivery of health care. In 2002 the NQF formally endorsed a list of Serious Reportable Events in health care that should never occur. These events are commonly referred to as "Never Events".

The current Never Events are:

1. Surgery on the wrong body part
2. Surgery on wrong patient
3. Wrong surgery on a patient

All future Never Events implemented by CMS will be incorporated into this policy as of the CMS effective date.

REIMBURSEMENT INFORMATION:

Never Events are not to be billed to Florida Blue. If a hospital submits a claim for one of these Never Events, the claim will be denied in its entirety.

Hospitals should not bill or attempt to collect from member any amount for a claim containing a Never Event. Members will have zero-member liability for any claim containing a Never Event.

BILLING AND CODING:

Never Events

Never Events, as defined in this policy, are not to be billed to Florida Blue.

GUIDELINE UPDATE INFORMATION:

05/17/2018	Payment Policy Approved by Payment Policy Governance
07/15/2021	Annual review, no changes
07/14/2022	Annual review, no changes
07/13/2023	Annual review, no changes
07/11/2024	Annual review, no changes

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