



Aetna Better Health of Texas Obstetric Ultrasounds- UPDATE 05/01/23

In late 2021, Aetna Better Health of Texas shared that we were removing authorization requirements on most obstetric ultrasounds in favor of code-level limits and post-service medical record reviews. Based on feedback from providers, we identified issues with how these edits were coded into our claims system and how the post-service medical record reviews were being processed.

In response, we deactivated the edits and began to follow the Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual (TMPPM) guidance of allowing three non-hospital-based ultrasounds per pregnancy without authorization. Based on further discussion with the provider community, we have identified a need to clarify our policy and share our next steps to ensure proper payment for medically appropriate care for our members.

Aetna Better Health of Texas will continue to follow the guidance in this bulletin from 2021: https://www.aetnabetterhealth.com/content/dam/aetna/medicaid/texas/providers/pdf/abhpa_provider_notification_eff_12_1_21.pdf.

Hospital-based services will be excluded from this implementation. Providers rendering hospital-based services are reminded that services rendered in the Emergency Room or Outpatient Observation settings must be billed with modifier U6 per TMPPM guidance. Claims without this modifier in these settings will be subject to denial.

SYSTEM UPDATES AND CLAIMS PROJECT

We appreciate your patience and understanding during the time that our systems were updated and claim projects were completed. All impacted claims have been reprocessed and the claim project is now complete. The Health Plan has granted a one-year extension for providers to submit appeals pertaining to OB Ultrasounds. Any claims impacted will need to be submitted by May 1, 2024. When you submit your appeal, please ensure to include wording to reference OB Ultrasound Project.

Aetna Better Health of Texas values your participation and input. If you have any questions, need clarification of this guidance, or have other claim issues related to obstetric ultrasounds, please contact your Provider Relations Representative directly or Provider Services at: 1-800- 248-7767 (Bexar), 1-800-306-8612 (Tarrant) and 1-844-787-5437 (STAR Kids). Thank you, as always, for the support and care that you provide to our members!