

Good morning Pediatric Practice Managers!

We have recently received complaints from a few practices regarding Anthem BC/BS that when an admin fee is billed with a physical, the physical is denied with the explanation that the physical is part of the primary procedure (admin fee). They show the remark code: N19.

We believe it may be associated with the fact that there is a claim "edit" that is part of a file set from a CMS vendor called the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) which is used by Medicare and now Medicaid, and apparently, some commercial payers to ensure that codes that ought not to be coded together are not used on a single claim. The problem is that the updated file is not allowing a preventive visit and immunizations on the same day.

We did see this happen with Medicaid, and then CTCare early on in the year, however, this had not been happening with Anthem, and in fact, we have EOB's that show some physicals paid and some not during the month of February. This is not only troubling, but potentially a really big financial problem for some of the practices.

The CTAAP has contacted Anthem BC/BS and has asked them to rectify this immediately. I wanted to notify you to be very careful looking at your EOB's.

I will notify you as soon as I hear from them their solution. As we did with CTCare and Cigna with their vaccine billing issues, we will insist that they pull the payment histories of all practices and re-process all claims.

Back to you soon....

Jill