



Never Events

Policy

An adverse event is defined as an injury caused by medical management rather than by the underlying disease or condition of the patient. A subcategory, Never Events, are medical errors that are particularly severe due to their preventability. Never Events include errors such as performing surgery on the wrong body part, leaving a foreign object inside a patient after surgery, or discharging an infant to the wrong person.

Oscar will deny reimbursement to hospitals and providers for any costs incurred for treatment of Never Events. Oscar has adapted guidance from the National Quality Forum on Serious Reportable Events (SRE), the CMS Medicare Hospital Acquired Conditions (HAC), and Present on Admission (POA) indicator reporting.

Reimbursement Guidelines:

Oscar identifies, reviews, and monitors incidences of serious reportable adverse events and hospital acquired conditions to ensure providers are rendering high quality care and appropriate reimbursement is rendered.

Oscar will not reimburse professional or facility charges when:

- treatment or services rendered are directly related to the occurrence of the Never Event
- treatment or services rendered are related to the the correction or remediation of the Never Event
- treatment or services rendered are related to subsequent complications arising from the occurrence of the Never Event
- follow-up services or readmission for the Never Event are performed by the same provider or a provider owned by the same parent organization
- follow-up services or readmission for the Never Event are performed in the same facility

Any professional provider associated with a Never Event (surgeon, anesthesiologist, radiologist, etc.) is not eligible for reimbursement. Reimbursement is also not provided for any services in the operating or procedure room where the incorrect surgery error occurs.

Providers are strictly prohibited from billing members for copayments, coinsurance, deductible charges. This includes attempts to balance bill members for events and post-event related services, which are designated as ineligible for payment.



Publication History

Date	Action/Description
12/09/2015	Original Documentation
6/16/2016	Approval and inclusion in Oscar Provider Manual
4/18/2017	Policy updated
9/30/2017	Policy updated