



January 2006

ATTENTION PROVIDERS

UB-92 Bulletin
06-001

Billing & Reimbursement Requirements for Observation Services

This policy is effective for claims billed March 1, 2006 and forward for dates of service of January 1, 2006 and forward. A complete description of the policy can be found on the OPPS web page (<http://wyequalitycare.acs-inc.com/opps.html>).

On **March 1, 2006**, EqualityCare will change its observation room policy to be consistent with Medicare's new Calendar Year 2006 billing requirements. **The new billing requirements will be effective for observation service claims with dates of service January 1, 2006 and forward.** EqualityCare anticipates that the new billing requirements will streamline provider billing.

CPT codes 99217-99220 and 99234-99236 are no longer recognized by OPPS and are not needed to report observation room services. In addition, HCPCS codes G0244, G0263 and G0264 are discontinued.

The three discontinued G-codes and the CPT codes that are no longer recognized are replaced by two new G-codes:

1. G0378—Hospital observation service, per hour
 - a. Hospitals should bill procedure code G0378 when observation services are provided to any patient in observation status, regardless of the patient's condition.



b. Observation service units for G0378 are to be reported as the number of hours that the outpatient is in observation status. If a period of observation spans more than one calendar day, all of the hours for the entire period of observation must be included on a single line and the date of service for that line is the date the patient is admitted to observation.

2. G0379—Direct admission of patient for hospital observation care

a. Hospitals should bill procedure code G0379 when observation services are the result of a direct admission to observation status without an associated emergency department visit, clinic visit, or critical care service on the day of initiation of observation services.

b. Direct admission service units for G0379 are to be reported as 1.



Adjusting Previously Paid Observation Claims

- If a previously paid observation service claim with dates of service from January 1, 2006 through February 28, 2006 is being adjusted March 1, 2006 and forward, the claim must be billed according to this policy.
- If a previously paid observation service claim with dates of service from October 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005 is being adjusted after January 1, 2006 the claim must be billed according to the previous policy which can be found on the OPPS web page (<http://wyequalitycare.acs-inc.com/opps.html>).

If you have additional questions regarding billing or covered services, please contact the ACS Provider Relations Unit at (307) 772-8401 or toll free at (800) 251-1268. Call center hours are Monday through Friday from 9am-5pm.



Wyoming Department of Health
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Important Changes! Please read!



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We're on the Web!

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