


Intravenous Hydration Education

At Meridian, we are **dedicated to empowering providers like yourself with essential information for success** in the critical role of caring for families.

In line with this commitment, **we are pleased to share valuable information sourced from MDHHS, CMS and coding guidelines**. We have identified several areas of improvement that can enhance your billing accuracy, documentation quality, and compliance with industry standards.

- **CPT code 96360 and 96361 are time-based**, indicating that the total billed amount depends on the actual duration of the intravenous infusion hydration session. Therefore, it is essential for the provider to document both the start and end times of the infusion to ensure accurate billing for these codes.
- **We utilize coding auditing software to flag claims billed with CPT codes 96360 and 96361**. The flagged claims are then reviewed by a clinician, who examines the member's and provider's current and historical claims along with any supporting diagnoses. Clinical validation takes place before claims payment. Once a claim has been validated, it is then release for payment or denied. 
- **If the claim does not pass clinical validation** at the time of submission, **the provider can submit an appeal** with supporting documentation.
- **Providers can submit an appeal with supporting documentation** including the physician's order for IV hydration, start and stop times of the infusion, and the infusion rate, to justify the reported length of administration.

Your dedication to delivering quality care is appreciated, **and we are here to assist in any way possible**. Should you have further questions, require additional guidance, or encounter any challenges in implementing these recommendations, please contact your Provider Representative.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to excellence in healthcare.

References

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/medicaid-ncci-policy-manual-2024-chapter-11.pdf>
<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/chapter11cptcodes90000-99999final11.pdf>
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