

Internal Medicine Coding Alert

Reader Question: Report S Codes to Private Insurers

Question: What are S codes and when should we use them?

Arkansas Subscriber

Answer: HCPCS 2004 lists S codes (S0000-S9999) as temporary national codes that the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association and the Health Association of America use to report drugs, services, and supplies that no national code represents. For example, you could submit S0622 (Physical exam for college, new or established patient [list separately in addition to appropriate evaluation and management code]) when the internist performs a physical for college admission requirements.

Some Medicaid programs accept these codes, but you should not submit S codes to Medicare carriers unless your provider directs you to do so.