

## Optometry Coding & Billing Alert

### Reader Questions: Get Ready for 'UHC Meets CCI'

Question: I've heard that I'm going to have to start changing some of the codes that I bill to UnitedHealthcare because it is changing its policies. Is that true?

New Jersey Subscriber

Answer: To some degree that may be true. In July, UnitedHealthcare (UHC) announced it would be implementing a new reimbursement policy. The payer planned to begin following all of CMS- national Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) edits in November.

"These edits, which follow correct coding guidelines established by CMS, will supplement edits currently administered under UHC's reimbursement policies, including the Rebundling Policy," UHC told its providers.

New date: UHC had to bump its original implementation date, and the new edits were rescheduled to take effect in December. According to UHC, until the payer's system updates with the new edits, your reimbursement will continue to follow the past reimbursement policy. The new policy, once in effect, will apply to any services you report using the CMS-1500 form and its electronic equivalent.