



## Reimbursement Policy

Subject: **Abortion (Termination of Pregnancy)**

Policy Number: **G-06057**

Policy Section: **Surgery**

Last Approval Date: **06/29/2022**

Effective Date: **01/01/2021**

\*\*\*\* Visit our provider website for the most current version of the reimbursement policies. If you are using a printed version of this policy, please verify the information by going to <https://www.bluecrossnc.com/providers/networks-programs/blue-medicare/healthy-blue-medicare> \*\*\*\*

### Disclaimer

These reimbursement policies serve as a guide to assist you in accurate claims submissions and to outline the basis for reimbursement if the service is covered by a member's Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (Blue Cross NC) Medicare Advantage benefit plan if the service is covered for Healthy Blue + Medicare<sup>SM</sup> (HMO D-SNP). The determination that a service, procedure, item, etc. is covered under a member's benefit plan is not a determination that you will be reimbursed. Services must meet authorization and medical necessity guidelines appropriate to the procedure and diagnosis as well as to the member's state of residence.

You must follow proper billing and submission guidelines. You are required to use industry standard, compliant codes on all claim submissions. Services should be billed with Current Procedure Terminology<sup>®</sup> (CPT) codes, Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes, and/or revenue codes. These codes denote the services and/or procedures performed and, when billed, must be fully supported in the medical record and/or office notes. Unless otherwise noted within the policy, our reimbursement policies apply to both participating and non-participating professional providers and facilities.

If appropriate coding/billing guidelines or current reimbursement policies are not followed, Blue Cross NC Medicare Advantage may:

- Reject or deny the claim.
- Recover and/or recoup claim payment.
- Adjust the reimbursement to reflect the appropriate services and/or procedures performed.

<https://www.bluecrossnc.com/providers/blue-medicare-providers/healthy-blue-medicare>

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Senior Health, DBA Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, is an HMO D-SNP plan with a Medicare contract and a NC State Medicaid Agency Contract (SMAC). Enrollment in Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Senior Health depends upon contract renewal.

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These reimbursement policies may be superseded by mandates in provider, state, federal, or Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) contracts and/or requirements. Blue Cross NC Medicare Advantage strives to minimize delays in policy implementation. If there is a delay, we reserve the right to recoup and/or recover claims payment to the effective date in accordance with the policy. We reserve the right to review and revise these policies when necessary. When there is an update, we will publish the most current policy to the website.

**Policy**

Blue Cross NC Medicare Advantage allows reimbursement of induced abortions unless provider, state, federal, or CMS contracts and/or requirements indicate otherwise.

Induced abortions are allowed only when the voluntary and informed consent has been obtained from the woman upon whom the abortion is to be performed, and the provider performing the procedure certifies:

- The pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest.
- The woman suffers from a physical disorder, injury, or illness, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself that would, as certified by a physician, place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed.

Reimbursement is based on the applicable fee schedule or contracted/negotiated rate.

Modifier G7 is required with the appropriate procedure code when requesting reimbursement for an induced abortion. Blue Cross NC Medicare Advantage does not require informed consent forms submitted with claims. Informed consent is not needed for the treatment of incomplete, missed, or septic abortions. These procedures are not considered induced or elective abortions and are allowed under the criteria of medical necessity.

**Related Coding**

Standard correct coding applies

**Policy History**

06/29/2022	Review approved: no changes
01/01/2021	Initial approval and effective

**References and Research Materials**

This policy has been developed through consideration of the following:

- CMS
- State contract
- Blue Cross NC Medicare Advantage contract(s)
- Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subpart E — Abortions §441.200-§441.208

**Definitions**

Abortion, Induced/Elective	One resulting from measures taken to intentionally end a pregnancy, using medications (medical abortion) or instrumentation (surgery)
Abortion, Incomplete	Part of the product of conception has been retained in the uterus

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina  
 Healthy Blue + Medicare (HMO D-SNP)  
 Abortion (Termination of Pregnancy)

Abortion, Missed	A dead, nonviable fetus and other products of conception are retained in the uterus for two or more months
Abortion, Septic	There is an infection of the product of conception and the endometrial lining of the uterus usually resulting from attempted interference during early pregnancy
Abortion, Spontaneous/ Miscarriage	Occurs when a natural cause ends a pregnancy prior to 20 weeks
Abortion, Threatened	The appearance of signs and symptoms of possible loss of embryo
Stillborn	Occurs when a natural cause ends a pregnancy after 20 weeks
Termination of Pregnancy	Synonym for abortion
General Reimbursement Policy Definitions	

<b>Related Policies and Materials</b>
None

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