

Sports Medicine Athlete Billing Guidelines



Sports Medicine

Athlete Billing Guidelines

It is recognized that all services, treatments and procedures conducted in the course of caring for the athletic, physically active population in a College/University athletic training or sports medicine facility do not meet Medically Necessary care per the definition put forth in insurance providers Plan documents. The policy definition for "Medically Necessary" or "Medical Necessity" is as follows:

Health care services that a Physician, or other Qualified Health Care Professional, exercising prudent clinical judgment, would provide to an athlete for the purpose of evaluating, diagnosing or treating an illness, injury, disease or its symptoms, and that are:

1. in accordance with the generally accepted standards of medical practice;
2. clinically appropriate, in terms of type, frequency, extent, site and duration, and considered effective for the patient's illness, injury or disease; and
3. not primarily for the convenience of the patient or Physician, or other Qualified Health Care Professional, and not more costly than an alternative service or sequence of services at least as likely to produce equivalent therapeutic or diagnostic results as to the diagnosis or treatment of that patient's illness, injury or disease.

For these purposes, "generally accepted standards of medical practice" means:

- standards that are based on credible scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed, medical literature generally recognized by the relevant medical community;
- Physician Specialty Society &/or other Qualified Health Care Professional's Specialty Societies recommendations;
- the views of Physicians or other Qualified Health Care Professionals practicing in the relevant clinical area;

Injuries that require medical &/or skilled physical rehabilitation services to restore optimal function to the physically active with injuries to the muscles, bones, tissues, and nervous system, may be Medically Necessary but it is further recognized that coverage is governed by terms of applicable Insured Plan Documents.

Criteria for billing an athlete will be considered appropriate when falling under Medical Necessity guidelines, and when:

- Injuries, illness or disease require surgical intervention;
- Injuries, illness or disease result in minimum of five (5) days of lost time from practice and/or games;
 - examples include, but not limited to, second and third-degree sprain/strain/contusions, fractures, dislocations, spinal injuries
- Pre-participation physical exams;
- Medical procedures such as sutures, casting, IV administration & other medical specialty care procedures;
- DEXA scans when performed for Medical Necessity, not for monitoring or research;
- Durable Medical Equipment

Sports Medicine will not bill for the following:

- New or established office visits by primary care or specialty physicians;
- Preventive sports medicine care;
- Sports medicine care conducted with athletes that do not meet Medical Necessity, and are under the minimum of five (5) days of lost time from practice and/or games;
- Prophylactic bracing