

cmi_171653

Title	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)		
Number	CP.PP.414.v1.5		
Last Approval Date	10/07/25	Original Effective Date	11/01/20
Cross Reference	<i>Medicare Indicator Status B and Status T Services Reimbursement</i>		

Coverage of any service is determined by a member's eligibility, benefit limits for the service or services rendered and the application of the Plan's Medical Policy. Final payment is subject to the application of claims adjudication edits common to the industry and the Plan's **professional or facility services claims coding policies**. Reimbursement is restricted to the provider's scope of practice as well as the fee schedule applicable to that provider.

Purpose/ Application	To define the Plan's limitations on reimbursement of dental and medical Personal Protective Equipment when submitted on professional claim.
Scope	Applies to all Premera Blue Cross, Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska, LifeWise Health Plan of Washington, LifeWise Assurance Company and Premera Blue Cross HMO lines of business and products.
Definitions	Personal Protective equipment (PPE): Masks, gowns, gloves, face shields, shoe covers, protective barriers and cleaning protocols used to protect healthcare providers, both dental and medical, clinical staff and other qualified healthcare professionals during a patient encounter.
Policy	<p>The use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) worn as part of a dental or medical healthcare visit is considered part of business operations for patient encounters.</p> <p>PPE is considered part of practice expenses included in the main procedure(s)/service performed and is not separately reimbursable.</p> <p>This policy is archived effective October 7, 2025. Please refer to the Medicare Indicator Status B and Status T Services Reimbursement policy.</p>
Codes and Coding Guidelines	<p>Code 99072 - <i>Additional supplies, materials, and clinical staff time over and above those usually included in an office visit or other non-facility service(s), when performed during a Public Health Emergency, as defined by law, due to respiratory-transmitted infectious disease.</i></p> <p>This code is considered a Status B-<i>Bundled service code</i> and is not separately reimbursed.</p>
Violations of Policy	Violations of this policy by any party that enters into a written arrangement with the Plan may result in increased auditing and monitoring, performance guarantee contractual penalties and/or termination of the contract. Disciplinary actions will be determined by the plan.
Exceptions	Exceptions to the policy may be made where a provider or employer group contract dictates otherwise.

Laws, Regulations & Standards	Washington State Senate Bill – SB 5169 - 2021
References and Resources	

Policy Owner Review	Payment Integrity Oversight Committee	
Contact	Any questions regarding the contents of this policy or its application should be directed to the Payment Integrity Department	
Annual Review Dates	10/07/25; 11/12/24; 02/05/24; 03/13/23; 04/08/22; 05/27/21; 04/28/21; 06/30/20	
Version History	06/30/20	Initial creation of the policy
	04/28/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created a new section titled “Codes/Coding Guidelines. Created a Code Exception section in the Codes/Coding Guideline Section. Added code 99072 (PPE) as an exception for the duration of the federally declared public health emergency payable to Washington state providers only.
	05/27/21	Additional clarification added to the Code/Coding Guidelines and Exception sections for CPT code 99072 when submitted by Washington Dentists and Pharmacists.
	04/08/22	Annual Review; no changes
	03/13/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the Codes/Coding Guidelines section, code 99072, added the first bullet indicating that the code would return to being a non-reimbursable Status Indicator B code effective with claim dates of service on and after July 8, 2023, due to the termination of the PHE on May 11, 2023, as declared by the federal government. IN the Exceptions section, also noted that the exception would end for code 99072 due to the end of the PHE as declared by the federal government.
	02/05/24	Annual review; no changes
	11/12/24	<p>Removed the statement from the Code and Coding guidelines section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In response to the termination of the public health emergency (PHE) on May 11, 2023, effective with claim dates of service on and after July 8, 2023, procedure code 99072 will return to being a Status Indicator B code and no reimbursement will be made per policy criteria for ALL providers and all claim submissions. Effective with claims received with dates of service on or after April 16, 2021, through July 7, 2023, a code exception is being made for the duration of the federally declared coronavirus public health emergency (PHE) for PPE code 99072. In compliance with Washington State Senate Bill 5169 (2021), code 99072 will be reimbursed to Washington state healthcare providers only whose member’s benefits allow reimbursement for this service. One unit will be reimbursed for code 99072 per Washington provider, per member, per date of service. This exception also applies to Washington Dentists, which submit medical services billed on a CMS-1500 paper or 837P electronic professional claim forms. This exception does not apply to

		<p>Washington Dentists that bill PPE that is worn as part of a dental visit for dental plan services since it is considered part of the practice expense included in the main dental procedure rendered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This exception applies to Washington Pharmacists that submit medical services billed on a CMS-1500 paper or 837P electronic professional claim forms. This exception does not apply to Washington Pharmacists that bill PPE that is worn as part of a Pharmacy visit since it is considered part of the practice expense included in the main Pharmacy service rendered. • All other providers not specifically called out as an exception will continue to be subject to the policy criteria and the submission of code 99072 will continue to be denied. • When the federally declared PHE is terminated, code 99072 will return to being a non-reimbursable code per policy criteria for ALL providers and all submissions. <p>Removed from the Exceptions section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to the termination of the public health emergency (PHE) on May 11, 2023, effective with claim dates of service on and after July 8, 2023, procedure code 99072 will return to being a Status Indicator B code and no reimbursement will be made per policy criteria for ALL providers and all claim submissions. Per WA State SB 5169, effective with claims received with dates of service on and after April 16, 2021 through July 7, 2023, code 99072 will be reimbursed to Washington state providers only (excluding Washington Pharmacists and Dentists that bill non-medical services on a CMS-1500 professional claim) for the duration of the federally declared public health emergency until the emergency is declared over by the federal government.
	10/07/25	This policy is archived effective October 7 2025. Please refer to the Medicare Indicator Status B and Status T Services Reimbursement policy.