



Early Elective Delivery

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the way in which Passport by Molina Healthcare, Inc. (Passport) will require providers to code for Early Elective Delivery (EED).

Policy

Providers are required to code claims to indicate gestational age allowing Passport to identify EED claims and apply applicable claim coding edits as needed.

Gestational Age/Delivery Code – Field 19

Providers must complete field 19 of the CMS-1500 paper claim form or its electronic equivalents for all deliveries. Field 19 must contain the gestational age/delivery indicator and one of four-digit alphanumeric values.

- A. The 1st and 2nd digits represent the gestational age, based on the best obstetrical estimate. They must be numeric characters and values from 20 through 42.
- B. The 3rd and 4th digits represent the method of delivery. They must be one of the following alpha characters:
 1. LV – labor non-induced followed by vaginal delivery
 2. LC – labor non-induced followed by caesarean delivery
 3. IV – induced labor followed by vaginal delivery
 4. IC – induced labor followed by caesarean delivery
 5. CN – caesarean delivery without labor, nonscheduled (e.g., add-ons)
 6. CS – caesarean delivery, scheduled

If the gestational age/delivery indicator contains an LV or LC value or contains a gestational age of 39 or greater, the claim will not be subject to editing for EED.

If the gestational age/delivery indicator contains IV, IC, CN, or CS and the gestation age is less than 39, the claim will be subject to editing for EED however:

- A. If one of the diagnoses on the claim indicates medical necessity for an early delivery, the claim will be exempt from EED edits.
- B. Claims that contain the IV, IC, CN, or CS indicator with a gestation age of less than 39 weeks and do not have a medically necessary diagnosis for early induction of labor and delivery will be denied.

Weeks of Gestation Diagnosis Code

Passport requires Providers to bill the appropriate Weeks of Gestation ICD-10 diagnosis code (Z3A) indicating gestational age at the time of delivery. Claims that are not billed with the proper Z3A ICD-10 diagnosis code will be denied.

In addition, all professional delivery claims with dates of services 7/15/2023, or after with gestational age dates of 37 or 38 (late term) weeks will require a supporting medically necessary diagnosis code for the early delivery. Claims submitted without evidence of medical necessity will be denied.

Documentation History



Type	Date	Action
Effective Date	7/15/2023	New Policy
Revised Date		

References

- [The Leap Frog Group \(EED definition\)](#)
- [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists \(ACOG\) Guidelines: Avoidance of Nonmedically Indicated Early-Term Deliveries and Associated Neonatal Morbidities](#)
- [CMS-1500 Claim Form](#)
- [Weeks of Gestation ICD-10 Diagnosis Code \(Z3A\)](#)

Supplemental Information

Definitions

Term	Definition
Early Elective Delivery	An induction or cesarean section performed prior to 39 completed weeks gestation without medical necessity.