



Billing outpatient date span claims

Mercy Care provides the following guidance for appropriate billing of date spans in a claim.

Mercy Care does accept claims billed in a date span, however, the manner in which this should be billed differs depending on the type of code billed. The National Uniform Claim Committee provides instructions on how to bill on the 1500 claim form. These instructions include the following guidance:

- The number of days billed **must** correspond with the number of units in box 24G on the 1500 claim form.

The following examples note the appropriate way to bill for date spans:

- For codes that are billed in 15-minute increments, billing through a date span is not appropriate, whether the dates are consecutive or not. The number of units in box 24G do not correspond directly to the number of dates billed in the date span.
 - The claim can be billed as a multi-line claim with a line for each date with its own unique units. For example:

From date	To date	Code	Units
1/1/20	1/1/20	S5125	45
1/2/20	1/2/20	S5125	52
1/4/20	1/4/20	S5125	48
1/6/20	1/6/20	S5125	50

- For per diem codes that are billed as 1 unit per day, a date span may be utilized only if the claim is for every day in the month (units should be equally divisible by the number of days billed within the date span) or billed for consecutive dates and the units are equally divisible by the number of days billed.
 - If the claim is billed for less than the full month, the claim would need to be split as noted in the examples below:

Days billed equals unit (claim is billed for each day in the month):

From date	To date	Code	Units
1/1/20	1/31/20	H0018	31

Days are not consecutive, or the claim is not billed for the entire month:

From date	To date	Code	Units
1/1/20	1/1/20	H0018	1
1/2/20	1/2/20	H0018	1
1/4/20	1/4/20	H0018	1
1/6/20	1/6/20	H0018	1



If a portion of the claim has consecutive dates, it could be billed as follows:

From date	To date	Code	Units
1/1/20	1/2/20	H0018	2
1/4/20	1/4/20	H0018	1
1/6/20	1/6/20	H0018	1

Mercy Care monitors date span claim submissions. Date span claims that are not appropriately billed may be subject to denial.