



# Private Duty Nursing

Reimbursement Policy ID: RPC.0128.7100

Recent review date: 11/2025

Next review date: 06/2026

*AmeriHealth Caritas Delaware reimbursement policies and their resulting edits are based on guidelines from established industry sources, such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the American Medical Association (AMA), state and federal regulatory agencies, and medical specialty professional societies. Reimbursement policies are intended as a general reference and do not constitute a contract or other guarantee of payment. AmeriHealth Caritas Delaware may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying its policies to services provided in a particular case and may modify its policies at any time.*

*In making claim payment determinations, the health plan also uses coding terminology and methodologies based on accepted industry standards, including Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®); the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS); and the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM), and other relevant sources. Other factors that may affect payment include medical record documentation, legislative or regulatory mandates, a provider's contract, a member's eligibility in receiving covered services, submission of clean claims, other health plan policies, and other relevant factors. These factors may supplement, modify, or in some cases supersede reimbursement policies.*

*This reimbursement policy applies to all health care services billed on a CMS-1500 form or its electronic equivalent, or when billed on a UB-04 form or its electronic equivalent.*

*To the extent that any procedure and/or diagnosis codes are specified in this policy, such inclusion is provided for reference purposes only, may not be all inclusive, and is not intended to serve as billing instructions. Listing of a code in this policy does not imply that the service described by the code is a covered or non-covered health service. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by federal, state, or contractual requirements and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment. Other Policies and Guidelines may apply.*

## Policy Overview

This policy addresses the services, requirements and reimbursement for private duty nurses (PDN).

## Exceptions

N/A

## Reimbursement Guidelines

Private duty nursing (PDN) services are nursing services for beneficiaries who require more individual and continuous care than is available from a visiting nurse or routinely provided by the nursing staff of the hospital or skilled nursing facility. These services are provided by

- A registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse;
- Under the direction of the beneficiary's physician; and
- To a beneficiary in one or more of the following locations at the option of the Plan:
  - Member's own home
  - Hospital; or
  - Skilled nursing facility

PDN services may include homemaker care, attendant care or respite care.

The total allowable benefit is based on units billed, (one unit equals one hour). Prior authorization is required for hours provided. AmeriHealth Caritas Delaware will reimburse participating providers per their AmeriHealth Caritas of Delaware contract.

## Definitions

N/A

## Edit Sources

- I. Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) and associated publications and services.
- II. Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS).
- III. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
- IV. The National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI).
- V. AmeriHealth Caritas Delaware Provider Manual.
- VI. Section 1905(a)(8) of the Social Security Act and 42 CFR §440.80.
- VII. <https://regulations.delaware.gov/register/december2015/final/19%20DE%20Reg%20507%2012-01-15.htm>.
- VIII. Applicable Delaware Medicaid Fee Schedule(s).

## Attachments

N/A

## Associated Policies

N/A

## Policy History

11/2025	Reimbursement Policy Committee Approval
06/2025	Minor updates to formatting and syntax
04/2025	Revised preamble
04/2024	Revised preamble
08/2023	Removal of policy implemented by AmeriHealth Caritas Delaware from Policy History section
01/2023	Template Revised <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Revised preamble</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Removal of Applicable Claim Types table</li><li>• Coding section renamed to Reimbursement Guidelines</li><li>• Added Associated Policies section</li></ul>
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