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Division of Public Health

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TO: Local Health Directors and Directors of Nursing

FROM: Phyllis Rocco, RN, BSN, MPH
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DATE: December 23, 2014

SUBJECT: Significant Revisions to the State Approved Local Use Codes (LU Codes) - 2014 LU Code Set –
Effective 1/5/15

RETIRED LU CODES

LU Codes were first established in 2000 as a way to track, bill and/or report services for which there was no CPT code or to make some services more accessible and affordable for patients. Several issues have come up which warranted a review of the LU Code set. These issues are as follows:

- **Correct Coding Initiative:** The use of LU Codes no longer aligns with Correct Coding Indicatives (CCI) guidelines. CCI requires the use of a CPT code for all billable services. Example: there were many LU Codes that were directly related to a CPT patient service definition (e.g., limited exam, sports physical, college physical, DOT physical, kindergarten physical, etc.).
- **Missed Opportunity to Generate Revenue:** Many of the LU Codes were offered at no cost or at a reduced fee, resulting in lost revenue for LHDs. Example: During 2013, there were 26,771 direct service related LU Codes billed or reported for which there was an equivalent CPT code. If we calculate the potential revenue for all 26,771 LU Codes, the revenue is \$1,742,203. Calculations were based on \$38.00 for a 99211 and \$78.00 for a 99213. This includes 20,918 LU Codes for Blood Pressure Checks billed by LHDs. Many of which were billed at no cost to the patient because the service was provided as a “convenience.” If these visits were billed using \$38.00 for a 99211, the revenue lost from not billing the 99211 CPT codes for these services was \$794,884.
- **Medical/Legal Risk:** Services provided under LU Codes may increase medical legal risk for LHDs when the LU Code service definition is not based on best practice guidelines or industry standards. Example 1: When auditing Blood Pressure Check visits provided by RNs, auditors noted elevated blood pressures not being reported to a higher level provider for further evaluation and follow-up, or referral to community providers if the health department did not offer that service. Many of these were not adequately or appropriately documented to demonstrate what did happen during the visit, opening the nurse and the agency to legal risk and the client to medical risk. Further, the Nurse Practice Act requires that the nurse document all pertinent information related to the care given to patients. Example 2: There were other services such as allergy injections that were provided without the necessary medical back-up, policies or procedures in place to support these types of services. These types of practices may also put the patient, agency and/or nurse at risk.

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- **Best Practice:** Initiatives at the state and federal level supports service definitions that are different than the service definitions for the LU Code set. Example: The American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Family Physicians and American College of Sports Medicine and other experts support specific guidelines for pre-participation in sports (sports physicals) to reduce the risk for preventable injury and death related to sports. The LU Code definition for sports physical would require a significantly different service description and would not meet national standards. Also, state programmatic guidelines dictate specific criteria for a patient visit (i.e. the requirements for a Kindergarten Health Assessment now meet all Health Check Billing Guide requirements.
- **Outdated Codes:** Many of the LU Codes are no longer being used by LHDs).
- **Medicaid Cost Settlement:** The Medicaid Cost Settlement is based on the total number of services billed using a CPT code and not an LU Code which could impact a LHD's Cost Settlement payment.
- **LU Codes Not Recognized by Electronic Medical Record Software:** Some EHRs do not recognize LU Codes. Standardization to the CPT Codes eliminates extra costs related to EHR "fixes" to accommodate LU Codes. As LHD's become more fluent in billing, the elimination of the LU Code set will prevent the erroneous use of those codes when billing private insurance.

Based on the issues outlined above, DPH will retire the LU Codes that have a directly relatable CPT Code on 01/05/15. Attached, please find the revised LU Code set. All retired codes are highlighted in red. All other codes remain in effect. Agencies are advised to review their list of current fees to assess the need for adjustments related to this change.

NEW LU CODES

As a part of practice management, LHDs should track services by individual provider. Tracking visits by provider can be difficult when a visit begins with a RN and ends with a higher level provider. Example: an Enhanced Role STD RN (ERRN) spends 45 minutes providing an STD assessment. A problem is noted which must be referred to the MD. The MD sees the patient and now the visit is billed using an Evaluation and Management CPT Code under that provider's name/provider number vs the T Code the ERRN would have billed. LHDs have requested a local code in order to capture time provided by an Enhanced Role Registered/Rostered Nurse when the visit ends up with a higher level provider. We have added the following LU Codes as a means to capture this time. Enhanced Role or Rostered RNs will REPORT their services using the following LU Codes:

LU282	STD Enhanced Role RN Contact (REPORT ONLY)
LU283	CH Enhanced Role RN Contact (REPORT ONLY)
LU284	MH Enhanced Role RN Contact (REPORT ONLY)
LU285	FP Enhanced Role RN Contact (REPORT ONLY)

A current list of the LU Codes can be found on the HIS website at:

https://wss01.dhhs.state.nc.us/sites/dhhs/DPH/HIS%20Library/System%20Status/System%20Dictionaries/LU_Codes_2013-06-24.pdf

LHDs that use private EHR software will need to work with their vendor to determine how to best track provider services. If you have questions, please call your Public Health Nursing and Professional Development Nursing Consultant at: <http://www.ncpublichealthnursing.org/NurseCons1.pdf>

State-Approved Local Codes Revised 11/4/14

Local Use Code	Local Use Code Description
LU001	Lab specimen obtained for f/u of newborn screening
LU002	Lice Treatment (e.g., Nix)*
LU003 - inactive	Suture removal without anesthesia*
LU004	Breast Pump Rental – Administration Fee
LU005	Breast Pump Rental – Daily Fee
LU006	Breast Pump Rental – 3 months
LU007	Breast Pump Rental – 5 months
LU008	Infant Feeding Class
LU009	AHA Heart Saver Class
LU010	AHA Health Care Providers CPR
LU011	Health Promotion/Prevention Package for industry, civic groups, etc.
LU012	Smoking Cessation Program
LU013	Glucometer Calibration
LU014	Printing Immunization Record for client (REPORT ONLY - by Administrative Code may not charge for this service)
LU015	Aquatic Therapy with trained provider but without PT/OT
LU016	Structured Exercise Program
LU017	Completion of Disability Verification/Disability Leave Form
LU018	Copy of Medical Record
LU019	Education and Outreach to Latino Population
LU020	Menu Planning (development/review for compliance with standards for schools, day cares, nursing homes, etc.)
LU021	Completion of form verifying exam (not at time of exam or other billable service)
LU022	Immunization Status Review for WIC; no vaccines needed
LU023	Diabetic Teaching
LU024	Determination of Presumptive Eligibility
LU025	SBHC Medication Administration (REPORT ONLY)
LU026	Foam treatment for Lice
LU027	“Consent to Receive School Health Services” filed (for use by SBHCs only)
LU028	Physical exam performed by non-LHD provider (for use by SBHCs only)
LU029	UPS Charge for 1 rabies titer
LU030	UPS Charge for 2 rabies titers
LU031	Returned Check Fee - Billable
LU032	Returned CK Service Fee Reinstated
LU100	HIV Pre-Test Counseling and Testing (REPORT ONLY)
LU101	HIV Post-Test Results and Counseling (REPORT ONLY)
LU102	Completion of “Record of Tuberculosis Screening” – DHHS 3405
LU103 – inactive	PPD, Positive Result (REPORT ONLY)*
LU104 – inactive	PPD, Negative Result (REPORT ONLY)*
LU105 – inactive	TB Meds: Ethambutol (REPORT ONLY)*
LU106 – inactive	TB Meds: Isoniazid (REPORT ONLY)*
LU107 – inactive	TB Meds: Pyrazinamide (REPORT ONLY)*
LU108 – inactive	TB Meds: Rifampin (REPORT ONLY)*
LU109 – inactive	TB Meds: Streptomycin (REPORT ONLY)*
LU110 – inactive	TB Meds: Rifapentine (REPORT ONLY)*
LU111 – inactive	TB Meds: Rifabutin (REPORT ONLY)*
LU112 – inactive	TB Meds: Rifamate (REPORT ONLY)*
LU113 – inactive	TB Meds: Pyridoxine (REPORT ONLY)*
LU114	PPD with State-Supplied vaccine (REPORT ONLY)
LU115	Contraceptive Patch Replacement
LU116	NuvaRing Replacement
LU117	PPD, Positive Result – Contact (REPORT ONLY)
LU118	PPD, Negative Result – Contact (REPORT ONLY)
LU119	PPD, Positive Result – low risk (REPORT ONLY)
LU120	PPD, Negative Result – low risk (REPORT ONLY)

LU121	TB Directly Observed Therapy (DOT)
LU122	TB Directly Observed Preventive Therapy (DOPT)
LU123	PPD, not read – Contact (REPORT ONLY)
LU124	PPD, not read – low risk (REPORT ONLY)
LU125	Reading PPD placed elsewhere, not a contact or suspect TB case
LU200	Orthopedic Service (REPORT ONLY)
LU201	Repeat Pap Smear (REPORT ONLY)
LU202 – inactive	Limited Interview: International Travel
LU203 – inactive	Limited Physical: Employment **
LU204 – inactive	Limited Physical: DOT**
LU205 – inactive	Limited Physical: Dare Challenge **
LU206 – inactive	Limited Physical: Day Care**
LU207 – inactive	Limited Physical: Head Start**
LU208 – inactive	Limited Physical: Sports**
LU209 – inactive	Limited Physical: Foster Care**
LU210 – inactive	Limited Physical: Camp**
LU211 – inactive	Limited Physical: Scouts**
LU212 – inactive	Limited Physical: College**
LU213 – inactive	Limited Physical: Respirator**
LU214 – inactive	Limited Physical: Kindergarten**
LU215 – inactive	Limited Physical: DSS**
LU216 – inactive	Limited Physical: County Employee**
LU217 – inactive	Limited Physical: Senior Companion**
LU218 – inactive	Limited Physical: DOC
LU219 – inactive	Limited Physical: US Forest Service**
LU220 – inactive	Basic Law Enforcement Testing (BLET) Exam
LU221	Teen Challenge/Eckerd youth Physical
LU222	Newborn Re-visit
LU223 – inactive	BCCCP Office Visit
LU224 - inactive	WISEWOMAN Office visit
LU225	TB Initial visit
LU226	TB Subsequent Visit
LU227	Referred for Positive PPD
LU228	Population Risk TB Test
LU229	Foam and Condoms
LU230 – inactive	Blood Pressure Check
LU231 - inactive	Pap Smear and Breast Assessment only (for non-BCCCP eligibles per age or income)
LU232	Test/Lab Results only visit (REPORT ONLY)
LU233	Condom Provision and counseling (REPORT ONLY)
LU234	Sterilization Counseling (REPORT ONLY)
LU235	Pill Replacement (REPORT ONLY)
LU236	Pill Pick-up (REPORT ONLY)
LU237	Non-Billable Social Worker contact (REPORT ONLY)
LU238	Non-Billable Health Education contact (REPORT ONLY)
LU239	Non-Billable Nutritionist contact (REPORT ONLY)
LU240	Non-Billable TB LPN Contact (REPORT ONLY)
LU241	Non-Billable Child Health Nurse Contact (REPORT ONLY)
LU242	Non-Billable STD Contact (REPORT ONLY)
LU243	Non-billable Communicable Disease Contact (REPORT ONLY)
LU244	Non-Billable Interpreter Service (REPORT ONLY)
LU245	Clinical Dental Varnish for 3 – 6 year olds
LU246	Tubal Ligation Counseling/Obtain Consent
LU247	Non-Billable MH Nurse Contact (REPORT ONLY)
LU248	Health Education Presentation (Non-County Organization)
LU249 – inactive	Breast Assessment only for non-BCCCP eligibles
LU250 – inactive	Pap Smear only for non-BCCCP eligibles
LU251 – inactive	Pelvic only for non-BCCCP eligibles
LU252 – inactive	Wellness Only – UA, EKG, Vital signs, 1 Executive Lab, Nurse visit + vision and hearing if requested
LU253 – inactive	Wellness Physical – Breast Check, Pap Smear, UA, Hgb., Occult Blood, Physical by NP

LU254 – inactive	Wellness and Physical - all components of LU252 and 253
LU255 – inactive	Limited physical - exam from waist up by NP, Vital signs, Vision and Hearing if requested; no labs
LU256 – inactive	Non-billable miscellaneous nurse injection
LU257	Non-billable Adult blood draw
LU258 - inactive	Weight check
LU259	Not at home visit
LU260	Home Visit (Client at home)
LU261	Non-billable Family Planning Contact (REPORT ONLY)
LU262	PPD, Positive result, high risk
LU263	PPD, negative result, high risk
LU264	PPD, not read, high risk
LU265	Treatment of LBTI, initiated, high risk
LU266	Treatment of LBTI, initiated, low risk
LU267	Treatment of LBTI, initiated, contact
LU268	Treatment of LBTI, completed, high risk
LU269	Treatment of LBTI, completed, low risk
LU270	Treatment of LBTI, completed, contact
LU271	Treatment of LBTI, incomplete, high risk
LU272	Treatment of LBTI, incomplete, low risk
LU273	Treatment of LBTI, incomplete, contact
LU274	PPD, Contact
LU275	Laboratory Panel #1*
LU276	Laboratory Panel #2*
LU277	Laboratory Panel #3*
LU278	Laboratory Panel #4*
LU279	Non-billable Primary Care Nurse Contact
LU280	Non-billable Triage Nurse Contact
LU281	Non-billable Behavioral Nurse Contact
LU282	STD Enhanced Role RN Contact (REPORT ONLY)
LU283	CH Enhanced Role RN Contact (REPORT ONLY)
LU284	MH Enhanced Role RN Contact (REPORT ONLY)
LU285	FP Enhanced Role RN Contact (REPORT ONLY)
LU300	Backless Belt Position Booster Seat
LU301	High Back Belt Position Booster Seat
LU302	Forward Facing Combination Seat
LU303	Forward Facing Convertible Seat
LU304	Rear Facing infant/Convertible Seat
LU305	Chain of Custody Urine Drug Screen Collection
LU306	Chain of Custody Buccal Swab Paternity Collection
LU307	Chain of Custody Blood ETOH Collection
LU308	Chain of Custody Blood Paternity Testing Collection
LU400	Miscellaneous Services
LU401	Miscellaneous Medications
LU402	Medicaid Co-pay
LU403	Private Co-pay
LU404	Copy of digital x-ray
LU500 – inactive	MTW and Toe River only
LU501 – inactive	MTW and Toe River only
LU502 – inactive	MTW and Toe River only
LU503 - inactive	MTW and Toe River only
LU504	CDSA Unpaid Balance Penalty Charge
LU505	CDSA Unpaid Balance Interest Charge
LU506	LHD Collections/Debt Set-off Fee
LU507	LHD Collections/Debt Set-off Reversal
LU600	Maternal Health Visit Count

New Codes – highlighted in blue. Retired Codes – highlight in red.

* These laboratory panels are for locally defined panels that are sent to an outside lab with which the agency has a discounted price agreement and the client is billed for some or all of that cost.