

AUTOPSY BILLING

Date of origin: 09/2026

Review dates: None yet recorded

POLICY OVERVIEW

This policy provides guidelines for billing, coding, and documentation, ensuring claims are processed according to contractual agreements and industry standards.”

DEFINITION

An autopsy is a medical exam performed on the body after death. An autopsy may be performed for reasons of clinical research, provider protection, public health, criminal investigation, or family comfort.

MEDICAL POLICY

N/A

FOR MEDICARE

For indications that don't meet criteria of NCD, local LCD or specific medical policy, a Pre-Service Organization Determination (PSOD) will need to be completed. Get more information on PSOD [in our Provider Manual](#).

POLICY SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Coding specific

CPT/HCPCS Codes	Code Description
88000	Necropsy (autopsy), gross examination only; without CNS
88005	Necropsy (autopsy), gross examination only; with brain
88007	Necropsy (autopsy), gross examination only; with brain and spinal cord
88012	Necropsy (autopsy), gross examination only; infant with brain
88014	Necropsy (autopsy), gross examination only; stillborn or newborn with brain
88016	Necropsy (autopsy), gross examination only; macerated stillborn
88020	Necropsy (autopsy), gross and microscopic; without CNS
88025	Necropsy (autopsy), gross and microscopic; with brain
88027	Necropsy (autopsy), gross and microscopic; with brain and spinal cord
88028	Necropsy (autopsy), gross and microscopic; infant with brain
88029	Necropsy (autopsy), gross and microscopic; stillborn or newborn with brain
88036	Necropsy (autopsy), limited, gross and/or microscopic; regional
88037	Necropsy (autopsy), limited, gross and/or microscopic; single organ
88040	Necropsy (autopsy); forensic examination
88045	Necropsy (autopsy); coroner's call
88099	Unlisted necropsy (autopsy) procedure (Explanatory notes must accompany claim)

Modifiers

Priority Health follows standard billing and coding guidelines which include CMS NCCI. Modifiers should be applied when applicable based on this guidance and only when supported by documentation.

TC- Technical component

Place of service

Coverage will be considered for services furnished in the appropriate setting to the patient's medical needs and condition. Authorization may be required. Get more information [in our Provider Manual](#).

11 - Office

22 - On Campus Outpatient Hospital

72 - Rural Health Clinic

Documentation requirements

Complete and thorough documentation to substantiate the procedure performed is the responsibility of the Provider. In addition, the Provider should consult any specific documentation requirements that are necessary for any applicable defined guidelines.

Reimbursement specifics

Because an autopsy is performed after death and is not related to the diagnosis, treatment, or management of a patient's condition, it is not a covered benefit.

FAQ

Resources

Related policies

Related denial language

DISCLAIMER

CMS and/or MDHHS guidelines apply unless otherwise specified in this policy or provider manual. Where such guidance is absent, this policy applies. Priority Health's billing policies outline our guidelines to assist providers in accurate claim submissions and define reimbursement or coding requirements if the service is covered by a Priority Health member's benefit plan. The determination of visits, procedures, DME, supplies and other services or items for coverage under a member's benefit plan or authorization isn't being determined for reimbursement. Authorization requirements and medical necessity requirements are appropriate to procedure; diagnosis and frequency which are still required. We use Current Procedural Terminology (CPT), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), and other defined medical coding guidelines for coding accuracy.

An authorization isn't a guarantee of payment when proper billing and coding requirements or adherence to our policies aren't followed. Proper billing and submission guidelines must be followed. We require industry standard, compliant codes defined by CPT, HCPCS, and revenue codes for all claim submissions. CPT, HCPCS, revenue codes, etc., can be reported only when the service has been performed and fully documented in the medical record to the highest level of specificity. Failure to document services rendered or items supplied will result in a denial. To validate billing and coding

accuracy, payment integrity pre- or post-claim reviews may be performed to prevent fraud, waste and abuse. Unless otherwise detailed in the policy, our billing policies apply to both participating and non-participating providers and facilities.

If guidelines detailed in government program regulations, defined in policies and contractual requirements aren't followed, Priority Health may:

- Reject or deny the claim
- Recover or recoup claim payment

An authorization on file for an item or services doesn't supersede coding, billing or reimbursement requirements.

These policies may be superseded by mandates defined in provider contracts or state, federal or CMS contracts or requirements. We make every effort to update our policies in a timely manner to align these requirements or contracts. If there's a delay in implementation of a policy or requirement defined by state or federal law, as well as contract language, we reserve the right to recoup and/or recover claim payments to the effective dates per our policy. We reserve the right to update policies when necessary. Our most current policy will be made available [in our Provider Manual](#).

CHANGE / REVIEW HISTORY

Date	Revisions made
09/2026	Moved CPT/HCPC codes from medical policy 91054 to billing policy, Medical Policy will be retired