

Medical Policy # 005

Policy Title: Use of non-physician Genetic Counselors

Date Written: April 16, 2008

Date approved by Q&UM Committee: May 6, 2008

Background: The 2008 Edition of Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) outlines the appropriate coding for non-physician genetic counselors when delivering genetic counseling to patients. Use of CPT code 96040 is permitted for each 30 minutes of face-to-face counseling with the patient/family.

The WHP Certificate of coverage definition of Health Care Professional includes “...other professionals who perform health services.” The certificate also provides that those Professionals must either be licensed “or practice under the authority of a licensed Health Care Professional.”

The States of Indiana and Kentucky do not require licensure for Genetics Counselors who work in a physician’s practice.

Hayes Technology Assessment Rating: N/A

Coverage Policy:

Certified Genetics counselors who have been properly credentialed by WHP’s Credentials Committee and who work under the authority of a participating physician may counsel WHP members and be compensated for their services using CPT 96040 in the following circumstances:

1. Prior Authorization is required.
2. No more than two (2) units per date of service.
3. Counseling is provided to a woman/family over age 35 who is pregnant or contemplating becoming pregnant OR
4. Counseling is provided to a woman/family of any age who has had a prior pregnancy with a genetic or chromosomal abnormality.