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In this bulletin, we'll share updates on our upcoming regional meetings, recent news from the company, and updates to claims processing.

Save the Dates! Provider Regional Meetings Coming in November

November 6th 11am - 1pm Virtual via Zoom

November 12th 11am - 2pm In Person Portland MPX 2301 Congress St.

November 13th 11am - 2pm In Person Bangor Holiday Inn 404 Odlin Rd.

[Click here to RSVP](#) to reserve your spot! For questions or topic suggestions please [email](#) us. We hope to see you there!

Community Health Options to administer MaineHealth's CarePartners program

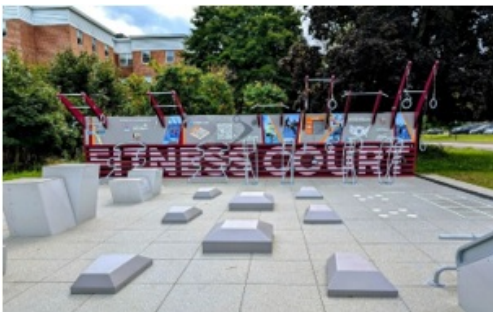
Community Health Options is the new administrator for [CarePartners](#), MaineHealth's program providing free or low-cost healthcare for low-income, uninsured adults. The new partnership allows members of CarePartners to continue to access comprehensive low-cost healthcare through MaineHealth's network of providers, hospitals, case management and prescription assistance.

"Administering this vital program is a key component in our mission to make sure Maine's healthcare system works for everyone," said Kevin Lewis, president and CEO of Community Health Options. "By helping to facilitate access to high quality health care across the state, we're proud to partner with MaineHealth to improve the health of all of our fellow Mainers."

MaineHealth launched CarePartners in 2001 with the mission of improving the health and well-being of adults in Maine who cannot afford private health insurance and do not qualify for public health care coverage programs. CarePartners has enrolled more than 20,000 members from 10 counties in Maine and New Hampshire.

Learn more about CarePartners and the new partnership [here](#).

Want a 7-minute workout? Visit the new Fitness Court at the University of Maine at Farmington



Maine's newest free outdoor gym is opening at the University of Maine at Farmington (UMF). This is the third Fitness Court[®] in Maine, thanks to a partnership between Community Health Options and National Fitness Campaign (NFC).

UMF is the first university or college to team

up with Community Health Options and NFC as part of an ongoing effort to build Fitness Courts across Maine, joining the world's largest free outdoor gym network.

Two Fitness Courts are already open—at Simard-Payne Memorial Park in the City of Lewiston and at VFW Park and Field on Canoe Club Road in Hampden.

Anyone 14 and older can use the Fitness Court. Seven exercise stations let you use your body weight to move at your own pace no matter your skill level, giving you a workout in as little as seven minutes. There's also a free [Fitness Court](#) app that acts like a digital coach, with training videos for beginners, intermediate and advanced users.

“Free access to fitness opportunities is vital to building healthy communities,” said Kevin Lewis, Community Health Options president and CEO. “We’re proud to be the exclusive NFC sponsor in Maine and delighted to be opening this Fitness Court with UMF, where students, faculty, staff and the community can all benefit from workouts that help to build overall health and well-being.”

To learn more about the event, read the UMF [news release](#) announcing the opening.

Important 2025 claims processing updates

Community Health Options updates its claims processing system regularly to stay in line with the latest American Medical Association Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®), Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS), and International Classification of Diseases (ICD) code sets. Additionally, we ensure our system complies with other key sources, including CMS guidelines, correct-coding initiatives, policy requirements, national benchmarks and industry standards.

These updates also include additions and updates to edit rules and logic that were not previously implemented but are represented in current published policies. **Effective January 1, 2025**, the following edit logic will be live in our claims processing system and will apply to all claims processed on or after **January 1, 2025**.

Add-on Codes:

Add-on codes are only those codes designated by CPT and identified by a specified descriptor that includes the phrase “each additional” or “list separately in addition to the primary procedure.”

Diagnosis code level of specificity:

Services will be allowed only when all diagnosis codes submitted on the claim are coded to the highest level of specificity.

Frequency:

A procedure or service billed for a single member, on a single date of service by the same provider and/or provider group up to the maximum number of units allowed.

Incidental Procedures:

Procedures performed at the same time as a primary procedure are considered incidental if clinical practice standards indicate they are normally included as part of the primary procedure. Incidental procedures are not reimbursed separately.

Incidental:

An incidental procedure is a service that is performed at the same time as a primary procedure but is not essential to the primary procedure and is not separately billable.

Mutually Exclusive Procedures:

Two or more procedures are considered mutually exclusive if they cannot reasonably be performed at the same anatomic site or patient encounter. These coding combinations are deemed submitted in error and only the primary service is considered for reimbursement.

Bundling:

Bundling is when multiple services are linked together under one code. This is often done when one service is performed as a result of another.

Unbundling:

Unbundling occurs when two or more procedures are reported separately when a single, comprehensive code exists that accurately describes the service performed.

Modifiers:

Modifiers allow for the reporting of a service or procedure that has been adjusted by a specific circumstance without altering the procedure code itself. They enhance accuracy in compensation, ensure coding consistency, assist in editing, and help capture precise payment data.

DME Modifiers:

New, rented or used durable medical equipment appended with the appropriate modifier. DME modifiers are considered reimbursement modifiers and must be billed in the primary or first modifier field to determine appropriate reimbursement.

Global Surgical Period:

Supplies and services typically associated with a surgical procedure will not be separately reimbursed when submitted on the same date of service or within the allotted global period (0, 10 or 90 days).

Prior Approval updates

Effective Oct. 1, 2024, the follow services no longer require prior approval:

- Abortion codes
- TENS units (DME), Codes E0720 and E0730

Resources

[Urgent Care Provider Sheet](#)

[Company Profile](#)

[Availity Portal](#)

[Community Health Options Website Provider Resources](#)

[Community Health Options' Provider Network](#)

**If you have any questions
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provider@healthoptions.org**

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