

Supplies/Services Not Separately Chargeable to Blue Cross

Items defined as equipment or supplies that are routine or already included in the cost of another item ARE NOT SEPARATELY chargeable. For example, equipment in the operating room should be included in the cost that determines the charge for the OR. Supplies that are not ordered or documented in the medical record are not separately chargeable.

The following list is intended to be a **guide** for hospital personnel in identifying those items or services not separately chargeable. The list is divided into four categories: EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES, PROCEDURES, ROUTINE/ADMINISTRATIVE and PATIENT CONVENIENCE ITEMS. ***THIS IS NOT AN ALL-INCLUSIVE LIST. (UPDATED January 2010)***

Equipment/Supplies	Comments
Adaptive device	
Anesthesia machine/equipment	Charges for equipment should be included in the overall charge for the operating room.
Aqua machine	
Bair Hugger blankets	
Band-aids	
Bed alarms	
Bed pans	
Bed rails	
Bed scale	
Beds, specialty	Also, see <i>Mattresses, specialty</i>
Bladder scanner	The charge for the equipment should be included in the charge for the test.
Blood pressure monitor (surgery)	Charges for equipment should be included in the overall charge for the operating room.
Blue Pads	

Equipment/Supplies	Comments
Breast pump	Breast pumps provided to a patient, which are subsequently taken home with the patient, are considered a patient convenience item. They should be billed to the patient under revenue code 0990.
C-Arm	
Cameras/Video equipment	See Revenue Code 0320
Canes	
Crutches – inpatient	
Crutches – outpatient	This is considered a DME item. The facility must be a DME provider and must bill to Blue Shield on a CMS 1500 claim form.
Daily aspirator rental	
Defibrillator	Defibrillators permanently housed or stored in a room or ancillary department are <u>not</u> separately chargeable.
Diapers, adult	
Diapers, baby	
Drapes, covers	
Electrodes-Physical Therapy	When used in physical therapy the electrodes should be bundled into the modality provided. The cost of supplies (e.g., theraband, hand putty, electrodes) used in furnishing covered therapy care is included in the payment for the HCPCS codes billed by the physical therapist, and are, therefore, not separately billable.
Emesis basin	
Film, x-ray	See Revenue Code 032X
Flexible Stockaide	
Foot cradle	
Gloves	
Glucometers	
Gowns- All types	

Equipment/Supplies	Comments
ID band or bracelet	
Incubator	
Kinetic machine	
Lap sponge	
Leg lifter	
Lifter	
Limb holder	
Linen, blue pads	
Masks	
Mattresses, disposable (eggcrate)	
Mattresses, specialty	A separate charge can be made for specialty mattresses under revenue code 027X, if ordered by physician.
Moisturizer, nasal – Outpatient	
Monitor, Bispectral Index (BIS)	
Monitor, blood pressure	
Monitor, cardiac/heart	<u>Exception:</u> A separate charge can be made if the equipment is portable AND there is dedicated personnel monitoring the equipment. If the above criteria are not met, the equipment charge should be part of the room charge. Equipment permanently stored or housed in a room or ancillary department is not separately chargeable.
Monitor, dynamap	
Ointment (protective barrier) – outpatient	
Pads, heating	
Pads, incontinence	
Posey belt	
Reacher	

Equipment/Supplies	Comments
Restraints (arm, leg, limb, etc.)	
Shave prep kit	
Shoe horn	
Specimen cups, traps	
Specimen hat	
Sponge, long handle or others used in OR	
Statlocks (to secure IV lines, PICC, etc)	
Stitz marker	
Suction machine	
Supplemental nutrition (Ensure, Vivonex, Citrotrin, Jevity)	The FDA classifies these items as food. Therefore a separate charge cannot be made. Items classified as drugs can be charged separately.
Swab sticks	
Syringes	
Tattoo ink for Endo	
Telemetry	<i>See Monitor, cardiac/heart</i>
Theraband	Theraband should be bundled into the treatment provided. The cost of supplies (e.g., theraband, hand putty, electrodes) used in furnishing covered therapy care is included in the payment for the HCPCS codes billed by the physical therapist, and are, therefore, not separately billable.
Thermometer, all types	
Toilet seat lifter, elevator	
Transfer belt	
Trapeze (bed treatment)	

Equipment/Supplies	Comments
Urine dipsticks done by nursing	
Video equipment in surgery & radiology	Equipment permanently stored or housed in a room or ancillary department is not separately chargeable. See Revenue Code 0320
Warming blankets	
Wipes (adult wash cloths)	
X-ray copies when sent with patient	

Procedure Descriptions	Comments
Administration Fees (Drugs) while patient is in the OR or recovery room	The administration charge should be included in the overall operating/recovery room charge. Drugs used may be separately billed.
Catheter care – inpatient	Considered part of routine nursing services
Compounding Fees (Pharmacy)	Considered part of the overall drug charge.
Dispensing Fees (Pharmacy)	Considered part of the overall drug charge.
IV flush, IV care, IV administration – <u>inpatient</u>	A procedural charge for an IV flush and /or administration cannot be billed separately. This is considered a routine cost. However, the materials and supplies used for the IV flush and administration can be charged separately.
IV flush – <u>outpatient</u>	The materials and supplies used for the IV flush can be charged separately. A procedure charge for an IV flush can be made if IV drugs were not administered.
Mixing Fee (Pharmacy)	Considered part of the overall drug charge.
Lab call back	This is an administrative expense; no separate charge can be made.
Labor induction	The labor and delivery room charge includes induction.
Newborn nursing observation	

Procedure Descriptions	Comments
Oxygen setup or administration	This is a service that can be done by nursing staff. If a hospital chooses to have RT perform the service, this does not make it billable. A separate charge should not be made.
Prep time for bone marrow aspirations	
Radiology call back	This is an administrative expense; no separate charge can be made.
Respiratory treatments by nursing staff – inpatient	
Specimen handling and processing fees	This is an administrative expense; no separate charge can be made
Stat charges or call back charges	
Tracheostomy Care or suction - inpatient	When provided by nursing, this is a routine service. When provided by RT, it is billable.
Transfusion reaction investigation charges	

Routine Administrative Items/ Services	Comments
Additional personnel	
Additive fees	
After hours personnel	
Bedside x-ray charge	
Educational or training materials or books	
Emergency charge for x-ray	
Management consultations	
Medical social services	
On-call Charges (operating room)	
Oxygen transport fees	
Oxygen stand by	
Pharmacist analysis fees or profile fees	
Pre-operative Room	

Routine Administrative Items/ Services	Comments
Social services/Discharge planning	
Special diet trays	

Patient Convenience Items – Admission/ Hygiene/Comfort	Comments
Admission kits	If a separate charge is made, the charge must be billed to the patient under revenue code 0990. If no separate charge is made, it is considered a routine cost
Baby bath	If a separate charge is made, the charge must be billed to the patient under revenue code 0990.
Baby wipes	If a separate charge is made, the charge must be billed to the patient under revenue code 0990.
Carafes	
Comb/brushes	If a separate charge is made, the charge must be billed to the patient under revenue code 0990.
Cool wipes	If a separate charge is made, the charge must be billed to the patient under revenue code 0990.
Cosmetics	If a separate charge is made, the charge must be billed to the patient under revenue code 0990.
Cot charges	If a separate charge is made, the charge must be billed to the patient under revenue code 0990.
Dental cup	If a separate charge is made, the charge must be billed to the patient under revenue code 0990.
Deodorant	If a separate charge is made, the charge must be billed to the patient under revenue code 0990.
Hand/body lotion and cream	If a separate charge is made, the charge must be billed to the patient under revenue code 0990.
Lip balm	If a separate charge is made, the charge must be billed to the patient under revenue code 0990.
Mouth moisturizer	
Mouth wash	If a separate charge is made, the charge must be billed to the patient under revenue code 0990.
Personal belonging bag	If a separate charge is made, the charge must be billed to the patient under revenue code 0990.
Pitchers	
Powder	If a separate charge is made, the charge must be billed to the patient under revenue code 0990.
Shampoo	If a separate charge is made, the charge must be billed to the patient under revenue code 0990.
Slippers, house shoes	If a separate charge is made, the charge must be billed to the patient under revenue code 0990.

Patient Convenience Items – Admission/ Hygiene/Comfort	Comments
Soaps	If a separate charge is made, the charge must be billed to the patient under revenue code 0990.
Tissue, Kleenex	If a separate charge is made, the charge must be billed to the patient under revenue code 0990.
Toothbrush/toothettes	
Toothpaste	If a separate charge is made, the charge must be billed to the patient under revenue code 0990.