

October 11, 2024

AnneBeth Litt, MD
Chief Medical Director
Elevance Health
220 Virginia Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Dr. Litt:

On behalf of the more than 7,700 U.S. rheumatologists and rheumatology health professionals represented by the American College of Rheumatology (ACR), I am writing regarding reimbursement for the new complex care add-on code, G2211.

The Healthcare Common Procedure Code (HCPCS) G2211 was implemented by Medicare for outpatient office visits on January 1, 2024. It is defined as, “Visit complexity inherent to evaluation and management (E/M) associated with medical care services that serve as the continuing focal point for all needed health care services and/or with medical care services that are part of ongoing care related to a patient’s single, serious condition or a complex condition.” This add-on code is identified primarily for primary care providers and those delivering care to patients with chronic diseases, including rheumatology care providers, who meet the coding criteria.

Implementation of the G2211 code is a critical step forward that will help ensure that patients and their physicians are better able to manage complex and chronic rheumatic diseases. Addressing these complex diseases requires specialty training and work – including extensive review of prior medical records, careful history and physical examination of the patient, consideration of comorbid conditions, education and decision making often with complex and powerful medications, and communication and coordination with referring providers and other specialists. Rheumatologists, like other cognitive specialists, have developed a high level of expertise through fellowship training and continuing education including critical assessment of new literature. This expertise helps reduce health care spending by ensuring patients receive early and accurate diagnosis and treatment, without spending on unnecessary tests or treatments. The G2211 code recognizes this expertise and extra work and reimburses rheumatologists appropriately.

We urge Elevance to demonstrate leadership and reimburse G2211 for your commercial plans. Choosing not to recognize this code effectively devalues and undermines the care that rheumatologists provide to Elevance patients with chronic and complex conditions.

We appreciate your review and consideration of these concerns and urge you to update your coverage policies to ensure appropriate reimbursement CPT G2211. We would also welcome the opportunity to meet with you to further discuss this issue. Please contact Meredith Strozier, ACR

Director of Practice Advocacy, at mstrozier@rheumatology.org or (404)633-3777 with any questions or to arrange a conference call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'RmCm' with a horizontal line extending from the end.

Rebecca Shepherd, MD, MBA
Chair, ACR Insurance Subcommittee