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Division of Public Health

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TO: Local Health Directors and Directors of Nursing

FROM: Phyllis Rocco, RN, BSN, MPH  
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DATE: December 23, 2014

SUBJECT: Significant Revisions to the State Approved Local Use Codes (LU Codes) - 2014 LU Code Set –  
**Effective 1/5/15**

## RETIRED LU CODES

LU Codes were first established in 2000 as a way to track, bill and/or report services for which there was no CPT code or to make some services more accessible and affordable for patients. Several issues have come up which warranted a review of the LU Code set. These issues are as follows:

- **Correct Coding Initiative:** The use of LU Codes no longer aligns with Correct Coding Indicatives (CCI) guidelines. CCI requires the use of a CPT code for all billable services. Example: there were many LU Codes that were directly related to a CPT patient service definition (e.g., limited exam, sports physical, college physical, DOT physical, kindergarten physical, etc.).
- **Missed Opportunity to Generate Revenue:** Many of the LU Codes were offered at no cost or at a reduced fee, resulting in lost revenue for LHDs. Example: During 2013, there were 26,771 direct service related LU Codes billed or reported for which there was an equivalent CPT code. If we calculate the potential revenue for all 26,771 LU Codes, the revenue is \$1,742,203. Calculations were based on \$38.00 for a 99211 and \$78.00 for a 99213. This includes 20,918 LU Codes for Blood Pressure Checks billed by LHDs. Many of which were billed at no cost to the patient because the service was provided as a “convenience.” If these visits were billed using \$38.00 for a 99211, the revenue lost from not billing the 99211 CPT codes for these services was \$794,884.
- **Medical/Legal Risk:** Services provided under LU Codes may increase medical legal risk for LHDs when the LU Code service definition is not based on best practice guidelines or industry standards. Example 1: When auditing Blood Pressure Check visits provided by RNs, auditors noted elevated blood pressures not being reported to a higher level provider for further evaluation and follow-up, or referral to community providers if the health department did not offer that service. Many of these were not adequately or appropriately documented to demonstrate what did happen during the visit, opening the nurse and the agency to legal risk and the client to medical risk. Further, the Nurse Practice Act requires that the nurse document all pertinent information related to the care given to patients. Example 2: There were other services such as allergy injections that were provided without the necessary medical back-up, policies or procedures in place to support these types of services. These types of practices may also put the patient, agency and/or nurse at risk.

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- **Best Practice:** Initiatives at the state and federal level supports service definitions that are different than the service definitions for the LU Code set. Example: The American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Family Physicians and American College of Sports Medicine and other experts support specific guidelines for pre-participation in sports (sports physicals) to reduce the risk for preventable injury and death related to sports. The LU Code definition for sports physical would require a significantly different service description and would not meet national standards. Also, state programmatic guidelines dictate specific criteria for a patient visit (i.e. the requirements for a Kindergarten Health Assessment now meet all Health Check Billing Guide requirements).
- **Outdated Codes:** Many of the LU Codes are no longer being used by LHDs).
- **Medicaid Cost Settlement:** The Medicaid Cost Settlement is based on the total number of services billed using a CPT code and not an LU Code which could impact a LHD's Cost Settlement payment.
- **LU Codes Not Recognized by Electronic Medical Record Software:** Some EHRs do not recognize LU Codes. Standardization to the CPT Codes eliminates extra costs related to EHR "fixes" to accommodate LU Codes. As LHD's become more fluent in billing, the elimination of the LU Code set will prevent the erroneous use of those codes when billing private insurance.

**Based on the issues outlined above, DPH will retire the LU Codes that have a directly relatable CPT Code on 01/05/15. Attached, please find the revised LU Code set. All retired codes are highlighted in red. All other codes remain in effect.** Agencies are advised to review their list of current fees to assess the need for adjustments related to this change.

## NEW LU CODES

**As a part of practice management, LHDs should track services by individual provider.** Tracking visits by provider can be difficult when a visit begins with a RN and ends with a higher level provider. Example: an Enhanced Role STD RN (ERRN) spends 45 minutes providing an STD assessment. A problem is noted which must be referred to the MD. The MD sees the patient and now the visit is billed using an Evaluation and Management CPT Code under that provider's name/provider number vs the T Code the ERRN would have billed. LHDs have requested a local code in order to capture time provided by an Enhanced Role Registered/Rostered Nurse when the visit ends up with a higher level provider. We have added the following LU Codes as a means to capture this time. Enhanced Role or Rostered RNs will REPORT their services using the following LU Codes:

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| LU282 | STD Enhanced Role RN Contact (REPORT ONLY) |
| LU283 | CH Enhanced Role RN Contact (REPORT ONLY)  |
| LU284 | MH Enhanced Role RN Contact (REPORT ONLY)  |
| LU285 | FP Enhanced Role RN Contact (REPORT ONLY)  |

A current list of the LU Codes can be found on the HIS website at:

[https://wss01.dhhs.state.nc.us/sites/dhhs/DPH/HIS%20Library/System%20Status/System%20Dictionaries/LU\\_Codes\\_2013-06-24.pdf](https://wss01.dhhs.state.nc.us/sites/dhhs/DPH/HIS%20Library/System%20Status/System%20Dictionaries/LU_Codes_2013-06-24.pdf)

LHDs that use private EHR software will need to work with their vendor to determine how to best track provider services. If you have questions, please call your Public Health Nursing and Professional Development Nursing Consultant at: <http://www.ncpublichealthnursing.org/NurseCons1.pdf>

**State-Approved Local Codes**  
**Revised 11/4/14**

| <b>Local Use Code</b>   | <b>Local Use Code Description</b>  |
|-------------------------|--|
| LU001                   | Lab specimen obtained for f/u of newborn screening   |
| LU002                   | Lice Treatment (e.g., Nix)*  |
| <b>LU003 - inactive</b> | <b>Suture removal without anesthesia*</b>  |
| LU004                   | Breast Pump Rental – Administration Fee  |
| LU005                   | Breast Pump Rental – Daily Fee   |
| LU006                   | Breast Pump Rental – 3 months  |
| LU007                   | Breast Pump Rental – 5 months  |
| LU008                   | Infant Feeding Class   |
| LU009                   | AHA Heart Saver Class  |
| LU010                   | AHA Health Care Providers CPR  |
| LU011                   | Health Promotion/Prevention Package for industry, civic groups, etc.   |
| LU012                   | Smoking Cessation Program  |
| LU013                   | Glucometer Calibration   |
| LU014                   | Printing Immunization Record for client (REPORT ONLY - by Administrative Code may not charge for this service) |
| LU015                   | Aquatic Therapy with trained provider but without PT/OT  |
| LU016                   | Structured Exercise Program  |
| LU017                   | Completion of Disability Verification/Disability Leave Form  |
| LU018                   | Copy of Medical Record   |
| LU019                   | Education and Outreach to Latino Population  |
| LU020                   | Menu Planning (development/review for compliance with standards for schools, day cares, nursing homes, etc.)   |
| LU021                   | Completion of form verifying exam (not at time of exam or other billable service)                              |
| LU022                   | Immunization Status Review for WIC; no vaccines needed   |
| LU023                   | Diabetic Teaching  |
| LU024                   | Determination of Presumptive Eligibility   |
| LU025                   | SBHC Medication Administration (REPORT ONLY)   |
| LU026                   | Foam treatment for Lice  |
| LU027                   | “Consent to Receive School Health Services” filed (for use by SBHCs only)                                      |
| LU028                   | Physical exam performed by non-LHD provider (for use by SBHCs only)  |
| LU029                   | UPS Charge for 1 rabies titer  |
| LU030                   | UPS Charge for 2 rabies titers   |
| LU031                   | Returned Check Fee - Billable  |
| LU032                   | Returned CK Service Fee Reinstated   |
| LU100                   | HIV Pre-Test Counseling and Testing (REPORT ONLY)  |
| LU101                   | HIV Post-Test Results and Counseling (REPORT ONLY)   |
| LU102                   | Completion of “Record of Tuberculosis Screening” – DHHS 3405   |
| <b>LU103 – inactive</b> | <b>PPD, Positive Result (REPORT ONLY)*</b>   |
| <b>LU104 – inactive</b> | <b>PPD, Negative Result (REPORT ONLY)*</b>   |
| <b>LU105 – inactive</b> | <b>TB Meds: Ethambutol (REPORT ONLY)*</b>  |
| <b>LU106 – inactive</b> | <b>TB Meds: Isoniazid (REPORT ONLY)*</b>   |
| <b>LU107 – inactive</b> | <b>TB Meds: Pyrazinamide (REPORT ONLY)*</b>  |
| <b>LU108 – inactive</b> | <b>TB Meds: Rifampin (REPORT ONLY)*</b>  |
| <b>LU109 – inactive</b> | <b>TB Meds: Streptomycin (REPORT ONLY)*</b>  |
| <b>LU110 – inactive</b> | <b>TB Meds: Rifapentine (REPORT ONLY)*</b>   |
| <b>LU111 – inactive</b> | <b>TB Meds: Rifabutin (REPORT ONLY)*</b>   |
| <b>LU112 – inactive</b> | <b>TB Meds: Rifamate (REPORT ONLY)*</b>  |
| <b>LU113 – inactive</b> | <b>TB Meds: Pyridoxine (REPORT ONLY)*</b>  |
| LU114                   | PPD with State-Supplied vaccine (REPORT ONLY)  |
| LU115                   | Contraceptive Patch Replacement  |
| LU116                   | NuvaRing Replacement   |
| LU117                   | PPD, Positive Result – Contact (REPORT ONLY)   |
| LU118                   | PPD, Negative Result – Contact (REPORT ONLY)   |
| LU119                   | PPD, Positive Result – low risk (REPORT ONLY)  |
| LU120                   | PPD, Negative Result – low risk (REPORT ONLY)  |

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| LU121            | TB Directly Observed Therapy (DOT)   |
| LU122            | TB Directly Observed Preventive Therapy (DOPT)   |
| LU123            | PPD, not read – Contact (REPORT ONLY)  |
| LU124            | PPD, not read – low risk (REPORT ONLY)   |
| LU125            | Reading PPD placed elsewhere, not a contact or suspect TB case                                       |
| LU200            | Orthopedic Service (REPORT ONLY)   |
| LU201            | Repeat Pap Smear (REPORT ONLY)   |
| LU202 – inactive | Limited Interview: International Travel  |
| LU203 – inactive | Limited Physical: Employment **  |
| LU204 – inactive | Limited Physical: DOT**  |
| LU205 – inactive | Limited Physical: Dare Challenge **  |
| LU206 – inactive | Limited Physical: Day Care**   |
| LU207 – inactive | Limited Physical: Head Start**   |
| LU208 – inactive | Limited Physical: Sports**   |
| LU209 – inactive | Limited Physical: Foster Care**  |
| LU210 – inactive | Limited Physical: Camp**   |
| LU211 – inactive | Limited Physical: Scouts**   |
| LU212 – inactive | Limited Physical: College**  |
| LU213 – inactive | Limited Physical: Respirator**   |
| LU214 – inactive | Limited Physical: Kindergarten**   |
| LU215 – inactive | Limited Physical: DSS**  |
| LU216 – inactive | Limited Physical: County Employee**  |
| LU217 – inactive | Limited Physical: Senior Companion**   |
| LU218 – inactive | Limited Physical: DOC  |
| LU219 – inactive | Limited Physical: US Forest Service**  |
| LU220 – inactive | Basic Law Enforcement Testing (BLET) Exam  |
| LU221            | Teen Challenge/Eckerd youth Physical   |
| LU222            | Newborn Re-visit   |
| LU223 – inactive | BCCCP Office Visit   |
| LU224 - inactive | WISEWOMAN Office visit   |
| LU225            | TB Initial visit   |
| LU226            | TB Subsequent Visit  |
| LU227            | Referred for Positive PPD  |
| LU228            | Population Risk TB Test  |
| LU229            | Foam and Condoms   |
| LU230 – inactive | Blood Pressure Check   |
| LU231 - inactive | Pap Smear and Breast Assessment only (for non-BCCCP eligibles per age or income)                     |
| LU232            | Test/Lab Results only visit (REPORT ONLY)  |
| LU233            | Condom Provision and counseling (REPORT ONLY)  |
| LU234            | Sterilization Counseling (REPORT ONLY)   |
| LU235            | Pill Replacement (REPORT ONLY)   |
| LU236            | Pill Pick-up (REPORT ONLY)   |
| LU237            | Non-Billable Social Worker contact (REPORT ONLY)   |
| LU238            | Non-Billable Health Education contact (REPORT ONLY)  |
| LU239            | Non-Billable Nutritionist contact (REPORT ONLY)  |
| LU240            | Non-Billable TB LPN Contact (REPORT ONLY)  |
| LU241            | Non-Billable Child Health Nurse Contact (REPORT ONLY)  |
| LU242            | Non-Billable STD Contact (REPORT ONLY)   |
| LU243            | Non-billable Communicable Disease Contact (REPORT ONLY)  |
| LU244            | Non-Billable Interpreter Service (REPORT ONLY)   |
| LU245            | Clinical Dental Varnish for 3 – 6 year olds  |
| LU246            | Tubal Ligation Counseling/Obtain Consent   |
| LU247            | Non-Billable MH Nurse Contact (REPORT ONLY)  |
| LU248            | Health Education Presentation (Non-County Organization)  |
| LU249 – inactive | Breast Assessment only for non-BCCCP eligibles   |
| LU250 – inactive | Pap Smear only for non-BCCCP eligibles   |
| LU251 – inactive | Pelvic only for non-BCCCP eligibles  |
| LU252 – inactive | Wellness Only – UA, EKG, Vital signs, 1 Executive Lab, Nurse visit + vision and hearing if requested |
| LU253 – inactive | Wellness Physical – Breast Check, Pap Smear, UA, Hgb., Occult Blood, Physical by NP                  |

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| LU254 – inactive | Wellness and Physical - all components of LU252 and 253  |
| LU255 – inactive | Limited physical - exam from waist up by NP, Vital signs, Vision and Hearing if requested; no labs |
| LU256 – inactive | Non-billable miscellaneous nurse injection   |
| LU257            | Non-billable Adult blood draw  |
| LU258 - inactive | Weight check   |
| LU259            | Not at home visit  |
| LU260            | Home Visit (Client at home)  |
| LU261            | Non-billable Family Planning Contact (REPORT ONLY)   |
| LU262            | PPD, Positive result, high risk  |
| LU263            | PPD, negative result, high risk  |
| LU264            | PPD, not read, high risk   |
| LU265            | Treatment of LBTI, initiated, high risk  |
| LU266            | Treatment of LBTI, initiated, low risk   |
| LU267            | Treatment of LBTI, initiated, contact  |
| LU268            | Treatment of LBTI, completed, high risk  |
| LU269            | Treatment of LBTI, completed, low risk   |
| LU270            | Treatment of LBTI, completed, contact  |
| LU271            | Treatment of LBTI, incomplete, high risk   |
| LU272            | Treatment of LBTI, incomplete, low risk  |
| LU273            | Treatment of LBTI, incomplete, contact   |
| LU274            | PPD, Contact   |
| LU275            | Laboratory Panel #1*   |
| LU276            | Laboratory Panel #2*   |
| LU277            | Laboratory Panel #3*   |
| LU278            | Laboratory Panel #4*   |
| LU279            | Non-billable Primary Care Nurse Contact  |
| LU280            | Non-billable Triage Nurse Contact  |
| LU281            | Non-billable Behavioral Nurse Contact  |
| LU282            | STD Enhanced Role RN Contact (REPORT ONLY)   |
| LU283            | CH Enhanced Role RN Contact (REPORT ONLY)  |
| LU284            | MH Enhanced Role RN Contact (REPORT ONLY)  |
| LU285            | FP Enhanced Role RN Contact (REPORT ONLY)  |
| LU300            | Backless Belt Position Booster Seat  |
| LU301            | High Back Belt Position Booster Seat   |
| LU302            | Forward Facing Combination Seat  |
| LU303            | Forward Facing Convertible Seat  |
| LU304            | Rear Facing infant/Convertible Seat  |
| LU305            | Chain of Custody Urine Drug Screen Collection  |
| LU306            | Chain of Custody Buccal Swab Paternity Collection  |
| LU307            | Chain of Custody Blood ETOH Collection   |
| LU308            | Chain of Custody Blood Paternity Testing Collection  |
| LU400            | Miscellaneous Services   |
| LU401            | Miscellaneous Medications  |
| LU402            | Medicaid Co-pay  |
| LU403            | Private Co-pay   |
| LU404            | Copy of digital x-ray  |
| LU500 – inactive | MTW and Toe River only   |
| LU501 – inactive | MTW and Toe River only   |
| LU502 – inactive | MTW and Toe River only   |
| LU503 - inactive | MTW and Toe River only   |
| LU504            | CDSA Unpaid Balance Penalty Charge   |
| LU505            | CDSA Unpaid Balance Interest Charge  |
| LU506            | LHD Collections/Debt Set-off Fee   |
| LU507            | LHD Collections/Debt Set-off Reversal  |
| LU600            | Maternal Health Visit Count  |

**New Codes – highlighted in blue. Retired Codes – highlight in red.**

\* These laboratory panels are for locally defined panels that are sent to an outside lab with which the agency has a discounted price agreement and the client is billed for some or all of that cost.