

Acute Care and Psychiatric Inpatient Readmissions

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Approved By:	Highmark Health Options – Market Leadership
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Products:	Medicaid
Application:	All participating hospitals and providers
Page Number(s):	1 of 2

Disclaimer

Highmark Health Options reimbursement policy is intended to serve only as a general reference resource regarding coverage for the services described. This policy does not constitute medical advice and is not intended to govern or otherwise influence medical decisions.

POLICY STATEMENT

Consistent with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Highmark Health Options recognizes that the frequency of Readmission to an acute care hospital or Institutions of Mental Disorders (IMDs) shortly after discharge is an indicator for quality of care, and thus has implemented a process for reviewing such Readmissions.

DEFINITIONS

Acute Care Inpatient Hospitals – A hospital that provides inpatient medical care and other related services for surgery, acute medical conditions, or injuries (usually for a short-term illness or condition).

Institutions of Mental Disorders (IMDs) – Free-standing psychiatric hospital or a psychiatric residential treatment facility.

Highmark Health Options (HHO) – Managed care organization serving vulnerable populations that have complex needs and qualify for Medicaid. Highmark Health Options members include individuals and families with low income, expecting mothers, children, and people with disabilities. Members pay nothing to very little for their health coverage. Highmark Health Options currently serves Delaware Medicaid: Delaware Healthy Children Program (DHCP) and Diamond State Health Plan and Health Plan Plus members.

Readmission – A return hospitalization to an acute care hospital that follows a prior acute admission within a specified time period, which is clinically related to that prior admission.

POLICY POSITION

Prior authorization is required for all acute care and psychiatric inpatient admissions. Acute care or psychiatric inpatient claims for members readmitted within ten days of discharge from the same hospital will be reviewed to determine the reason for readmission. If it is determined that the readmission resulted from a premature discharge based on information the provider would have known, events that could have been anticipated at the time of discharge, or the subsequent admission was for a diagnosis related to the initial admission, payment will

not be made for the second admission. In this situation, the second admission is considered to have been reimbursed in the discharge rate for the initial readmission.

When submitting claims for readmission within 10 days of a previous admission, discharge summaries for both admissions should be attached. If a new claim is submitted that spans the dates of services for both acute care inpatient services, the claim will be denied.

Highmark Health Options utilizes the Coleman Model- Four Pillars of Care Transitions to support our member's post-discharge. Health Options will work collaboratively with providers and members to ensure a smooth and safe transition post-discharge, especially for those members with existing care plans. Highmark Health Options encourages providers and facilities to contact Provider Services at 1-844-325-6251 to coordinate member's discharge plans to minimize impact and ensure continuity for all necessary care.

POST-PAYMENT AUDIT STATEMENT

The medical record must include documentation that reflects the medical necessity criteria and is subject to audit by Highmark Health Options at any time pursuant to the terms of your provider agreement.

References

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid. (n.d.). *CMS Data Navigator Glossary of Terms*. CMS.Gov. Retrieved August 22, 2022, from https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Research/ResearchGenInfo/Downloads/DataNav_Glossary_Alpha.pdf

Delaware Health and Social Services. (2019). *Inpatient Hospital Provider Specific Policy*. Dhss.Delaware.Gov. https://medicaidpublications.dhss.delaware.gov/docs/DesktopModules/Bring2mind/DMX/API/Entries/Download?Command=Core_Download&EntryId=895&language=en-US&PortalId=0&TabId=94

POLICY UPDATE HISTORY

10/24/2022	Policy approved in Governance
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