

Radiopharmaceutical/Radiology

Policy ID:	HHO-DE-RP-1139
Approved By:	Highmark Health Options – Market Leadership
Provider Notice Date:	6/12/2023
Original Effective Date:	7/10/2023
Annual Approval Date:	12/19/2022
Last Revision Date:	12/19/2022
Products:	Medicaid
Application:	All participating hospitals and providers
Page Number(s)	1 of 2

Disclaimer

Highmark Health Options medical 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

Highmark Health Options may provide coverage under the medical-surgical benefits of the Company's Medicaid products for medically necessary benefits.

This policy is designed to address medical necessity guidelines that are appropriate for the majority of individuals with a particular disease, illness or condition. Each person's unique clinical circumstances warrant individual consideration, based upon review of applicable medical records.

The qualifications of the policy will meet the standards of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) and the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) and all applicable state and federal regulations.

PURPOSE

This policy was written to inform providers who serve the Medicaid population about the bundling between Radiopharmaceutical diagnostic or therapeutic imaging agents and radiology services.

DEFINITIONS

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 services Delaware Medicaid: Delaware Health Children (DHCP) and Diamond State Health Plan Plus members.

Radiopharmaceuticals – Drugs that contain radioactive materials called radioisotopes. They may be put into a vein, taken by mouth, or placed in a body cavity. Depending on the drug and how it's given, these materials travel to various parts of the body to treat cancer or relieve its symptoms. They put out radiation, mostly in the form of alpha and beta particles that target the affected areas. They're most often used in small amounts for imaging tests, but larger doses can be used to deliver radiation.

PROCEDURES

Radiopharmaceutical services are to be bundled with covered radiology services. If these services are not bundled together when billing, the services will not be paid separately.

REIMBURSEMENT

Participating facilities will be reimbursed per their Highmark Health Options contract.

REFERENCES

Delaware Health and Social Services. Practitioner Provider Specific Policy Manual. 2021. Retrieved from https://medicaidpublications.dhss.delaware.gov/docs/DesktopModules/Bring2mind/DMX/API/Entries/Download?Command=Core_Download&EntryId=887&language=en-US&PortalId=0&TabId=94 Revised 10/28/2022.

POLICY UPDATE HISTORY

12/19/2022	Medical Governance Approval
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