

# Special Bulletin

For all providers in DE, PA, and WV

March 31, 2025

## Four Reimbursement Policies to be Updated on May 30, 2025

To better manage health care costs for our members, Highmark is updating the four Reimbursement Policies (RPs) listed below.

The changes to these four RPs will be **effective May 30, 2025**.

- **RP-019A: Drugs and Biologicals (formerly RP-019N) – Professional and Facility Providers**

To align with Highmark's reimbursement methodology for outpatient medications, RP-019A will now include inpatient drugs and biologicals; pricing adjustments to the Average Selling Price (ASP) +10% (Commercial) or ASP +6% (Medicare Advantage) and in the absence of ASP, Average Wholesale Price (AWP). This updated pricing will impact the calculation of covered charges used to determine eligibility for cost outliers under the Highmark DRG inpatient methodologies.

- **RP-040: Facility Routine Supplies and Services – Facility Providers**

The list of routine supplies, services, and items that are not separately reimbursable will be updated.

- **RP-061: Implants and Implant Components – Facility Providers**

Following industry best practices, Highmark will now apply the invoice cost for implants as the covered charge(s) for that implant when determining cost outliers under a Highmark DRG inpatient methodology that includes such outliers. Highmark will determine invoice pricing on each claim based on the national invoice average as codified in **RP-061**.

- **NEW: RP-080 Integral or Necessary Services – Professional and Facility Providers**

The intent of this policy is not to develop new guidance, but rather to provide standalone policy language clarifying Highmark's definition of "integral":

- "Integral" refers to services that are needed or required during the provision of patient care which are inclusive of another service or component parts of a more comprehensive service.
- "Integral" refers to supplies, equipment and certain services that are inherent, needed or required for the provision of patient care and are considered by Highmark as part of another service.

The updated reimbursement policies, including the new RP-080, will be available on the [Provider Resource Center](#) (PRC) starting on May 30, 2025. To view them, go to the PRC > **Claims & Authorization > Reimbursement Programs > Reimbursement Policies**. For **RP-019A**, you must be logged into [Avality](#)<sup>®</sup> to view on the PRC.

To stay informed of upcoming changes, subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter *Provider News* by clicking [here](#).

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