

Special Bulletin

For professional and facility providers

May 3, 2024

New Inpatient Facility Diagnosis Guidelines Available on PRC via Availity

To assist providers with claims submission for highly complex medical conditions, Highmark has created **the Inpatient Facility Diagnosis Guidelines** page on the Provider Resource Center (PRC) via Payer Spaces in [Availity](#)[®].

Providers will find detailed information, including diagnostic thresholds and accurate coding guidance, on the following conditions:

- **Acute Respiratory Failure** – The respiratory system provides oxygen to and removes carbon dioxide from the body; however, the inability to perform either or both of these functions results in respiratory failure.
- **Acute Toxic/Metabolic Encephalopathy** – describes an acute or subacute development of global dysfunction of cognition caused by conditions outside the brain, such as hypertension, liver failure, uremia, electrolyte disturbances, sepsis, or toxins.
- **Appropriate Use of Neonatal Growth Charts** – Growth patterns in early postnatal life and body composition have important consequences for metabolic and cardiovascular health in later life. In the clinical setting, a growth chart is a primary tool used to evaluate neonatal birth weight and length.
- **Hemolytic Disease of the Newborn** – is a rare condition that occurs when maternal red blood cells or blood group antibodies cross the placenta during pregnancy and cause fetal red cell destruction.
- **Malnutrition** – refers to deficiencies or excesses in nutrient intake, imbalance of essential nutrients, or impaired nutrient utilization. The double burden of malnutrition consists of both undernutrition and obesity, as well as diet-related noncommunicable disease.
- **Meconium Staining** – Meconium is the sterile fecal material produced in the intestine before birth. For most newborns, meconium is usually passed 24-48 hours after birth when feeding starts, but sometimes it is passed into the amniotic fluid before or during the time of birth.
- **Neonatal Hypoglycemia** – is the most common metabolic problem in newborns and occurs when the level of glucose in the blood is too low.
- **Sepsis and Septic Shock** – Sepsis is life-threatening organ dysfunction caused by a dysregulated host response to infection. Septic shock is a subset of sepsis in which particularly profound circulatory, cellular, and metabolic abnormalities are associated with a greater risk of mortality than with sepsis alone.

The publication of these policies is to memorialize what has historically been part of Highmark’s claims adjudication process into a provider-facing document and does not represent a change in process or policy.

How to Access These Resources

These guidelines can be found on the PRC once you log into [Availity](#). Click **Payer Spaces** on the task bar and choose your Highmark plan. Once you arrive at **Payer Spaces**, scroll down to **Applications**, and click **Provider Resource Center**. Once there, select **CLAIMS, PAYMENT & REIMBURSEMENT** and then click **Inpatient Facility Diagnosis Guidelines**.

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