



Reimbursement Policy

Subject: **Preadmission Services for Inpatient Stays**

Policy Number: **G-01017**

Policy Section: **Facilities**

Last Approval Date: **12/11/2023**

Effective Date: **12/11/2023**

**** Visit our provider website for the most current version of the reimbursement policies. If you are using a printed version of this policy, please verify the information by going to <https://www.bluecrossnc.com/providers/blue-medicare-providers/healthy-blue-medicare>. ****

Disclaimer

These reimbursement policies serve as a guide to assist you in accurate claims submissions and to outline the basis for reimbursement if Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (Blue Cross NC) Medicare Advantage covered the service for the Healthy Blue + MedicareSM (HMO-POS D-SNP) member's benefit plan.

The determination that a service, procedure, item, etc. is covered under a member's benefit plan is not a determination that you will be reimbursed. Services must meet authorization and medical necessity guidelines appropriate to the procedure and diagnosis as well as to the member's state of residence.

You must follow proper billing and submission guidelines. You are required to use industry standard, compliant codes on all claim submissions. Services should be billed with Current Procedure Terminology[®] (CPT) codes, Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes, and/or revenue codes. These codes denote the services and/or procedures performed and, when billed, must be fully supported in the medical record and/or office notes. Unless otherwise noted within the policy, our reimbursement policies apply to both participating and non-participating professional providers and facilities.

If appropriate coding/billing guidelines or current reimbursement policies are not followed, Blue Cross NC Medicare Advantage may:

- Reject or deny the claim.
- Recover and/or recoup claim payment.
- Adjust the reimbursement to reflect the appropriate services and/or procedures performed.

<https://www.bluecrossnc.com/providers/networks-programs/blue-medicare/healthy-blue-medicare>

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Senior Health, DBA Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, is an HMO-POS D-SNP plan with a Medicare contract and a NC State Medicaid Agency Contract (SMAC). Enrollment in Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Senior Health depends upon contract renewal.

®, SM are marks of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, an association of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans. All other marks and names are property of their respective owners. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association.

These reimbursement policies may be superseded by mandates in provider, state, federal, or Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) contracts and/or requirements. Blue Cross NC Medicare Advantage strives to minimize delays in policy implementation. If there is a delay, we reserve the right to recoup and/or recover claims payment to the effective date in accordance with the policy. We reserve the right to review and revise these policies when necessary. When there is an update, we will publish the most current policy to the website.

Policy

Blue Cross NC Medicare Advantage allows reimbursement for applicable services prior to admission to an inpatient hospital (referred to as the payment window) unless provider, state, federal, or CMS contracts and/or requirements indicate otherwise.

Reimbursement is based on CMS guidance as follows:

- For the following hospitals, preadmission services are included in the inpatient reimbursement for 24 hours prior to and including the day of the member's admission, and therefore, are not separately reimbursable expenses:
 - Admitting hospitals

Note: This includes any entity wholly owned or wholly operated by the admitting hospital or by another entity under arrangements with the admitting hospital.

- Psychiatric hospitals and units
- Inpatient rehabilitation facilities and units
- Long-term care hospitals
- Children's hospitals
- Cancer hospitals
- For Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs), preadmission services are not subject to the one (1) day payment window and, therefore, are separately reimbursable expenses from the inpatient stay reimbursement.
- The one-day payment window does not apply to preadmission services included in the rural health clinic (RHC) or federally qualified health center (FQHC) all-inclusive rate.

Preadmission Services

Preadmission services are included in the inpatient reimbursement and consist of all diagnostic outpatient services and admission-related outpatient nondiagnostic services.

A hospital may attest to specific nondiagnostic services as being unrelated by adding a condition code 51 to the outpatient nondiagnostic service to be billed separately. Providers should append Modifier PD to diagnostic and nondiagnostic services that are subject to the preadmission payment window.

Outside Payment Window

Blue Cross NC Medicare Advantage does not consider the following services to be included in the payment window prior to an inpatient stay for preadmission services:

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina
 Healthy Blue + Medicare (HMO-POS D-SNP)
 Preadmission Services for Inpatient Stays

- Ambulance services
- Maintenance renal dialysis services
- Services provided by:
 - Skilled nursing facilities
 - Home health agencies
 - Hospices
- Unrelated nondiagnostic services

Note: These services may be considered for separate outpatient reimbursement.

Related Coding	
Standard correct coding applies	

Policy History	
12/11/2023	Review approved and effective: no changes
01/01/2021	Initial approval and effective

References and Research Materials	
This policy has been developed through consideration of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMS • State contract 	

Definitions	
Admission-Related Outpatient Nondiagnostic Services	Services that are furnished in connection with the principal diagnosis assigned to the inpatient admission
Condition Code 51	Denotes attestation of Unrelated Outpatient Non-Diagnostic Services
Modifier PD	Indicates that the service is related to the inpatient admission
General Reimbursement Policy Definitions	

Related Policies and Materials	
Modifier Usage	
Transportation Services: Ambulance and Non-Emergent Transport	

©2021-2024 Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina. All Rights Reserved.