

January 2020

Rapid readmission — recovery efforts

To comply with federal standards, Healthy Blue will conduct recovery efforts for 30-day hospital rapid readmission activities. Rapid readmission activities are defined by CMS in the *Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program (HRRP)* located at:

www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/AcuteInpatientPPS/Readmissions-Reduction-Program.*

Healthy Blue hospital readmission policy

Healthy Blue does not reimburse claims submitted for a rapid readmission for a related diagnosis as a separate admission. This includes both physical and behavioral health inpatient stays.

A rapid readmission is an admission that occurs within 30 days of a previous inpatient discharge from the same facility for the same or a related condition and meets the criteria specified. A rapid readmission is subject to nonpayment if, after clinical review, any of these have been deemed to have occurred:

- The second admission was due to a hospital-acquired condition from the first admission.
- The second admission was directly related to premature discharge.
- The second admission was directly related to inadequate discharge planning or inadequate execution of a discharge plan.

Healthy Blue reviews all rapid readmission claims prior to our medical director's denial. Providers who disagree with the outcome of that review can file an appeal using the appeals process. Please reference the *Grievance and Appeals* section in the provider manual.

To assist in reducing rapid readmissions for your hospital:

- Gather information about what the member did after discharge from recent hospitalizations.
- List medication(s) the member was on or changed (any barriers to getting medication).
- If applicable, provide the safety/crisis plan created at last discharge. List any barriers to implementing the safety/crisis plan.
- Take the time to assess coordination of care efforts to minimize future readmissions.

If you have questions about this communication, contact your local Provider Relations representative or call the Customer Care Center at **866-757-8286**.

* This link leads to a third-party site. That organization is solely responsible for the contents and privacy policies on its site.

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