

# SPECIAL eBULLETIN

FOR PROFESSIONAL & OUTPATIENT FACILITY PROVIDERS

MAR. 1, 2019

## VENIPUNCTURE NOT REIMBURSED WHEN BILLED WITH LAB SERVICES

Just as you do everything in your power to deliver the best care for patients, we do everything in ours to ensure practices and hospitals are accurately reimbursed for that care. That's why we have a variety of programs dedicated to ensuring all claims are accurate and clinically appropriate.

Effective **May 6, 2019**, Highmark will not reimburse venipuncture (blood draws) when billed with another blood or serum lab service on the same date of service, by the same provider, for the same patient. The venipuncture is considered incidental to the lab test and is not eligible for separate reimbursement.

### REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES FOR VENIPUNCTURE SERVICES

- Highmark will reimburse providers for venipuncture when the specimen is sent to a lab outside the provider's office/facility, and the clinical lab test is billed by the external lab.
- However, if the clinical lab test is performed in the practitioner's office and the practitioner bills for the laboratory test, an additional charge for venipuncture will not be separately reimbursed, as the venipuncture charge is considered incidental to the blood or serum lab service.
- If some of the blood and/or serum lab procedures are performed by the provider, and other procedures are sent to an external lab, the venipuncture is not eligible for separate reimbursement.
- These reimbursement guidelines do not apply to inpatient venipuncture.

### REVIEW REIMBURSEMENT POLICY RP-047

Highmark's Reimbursement Policy RP-047, Venipuncture and Lab Services, is available for your review on the Provider Resource Center.

Reimbursement policies are located on the Provider Resource Center as an option under **CLAIMS, PAYMENT & REIMBURSEMENT**. Select **Reimbursement Policy** to review Highmark's reimbursement policies. As new reimbursement policies are developed, they will be added to the **Reimbursement Policy** page. Check back regularly for the latest updates.

Thank you for your continued assistance in ensuring that Highmark members receive necessary services in a high-quality, clinically appropriate fashion. We appreciate your support and the care you provide to our members and your patients.

