

SPECIAL eBULLETIN

FOR PROFESSIONAL AND FACILITY PROVIDERS

JANUARY 4, 2022

CONTINUATION OF THE RESOURCE UTILIZATION GROUP METHODOLOGY FOR MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PROVIDERS

As communicated in [previous years](#), **Highmark is continuing to use the Resource Utilization Group (RUG) methodology for reimbursement for our participating Medicare Advantage providers.** This is different from what the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) uses as they replaced RUGs with the Patient Driven Payment Model (PDPM) in 2019.

If you are NOT participating with any of Highmark's Medicare Advantage products, you will be required to submit claims for Medicare Advantage members in the PDPM format, using the applicable Health Insurance Prospective Payment System (HIPPS) codes. Claims for these members will be processed and paid according to PDPM processing and pricing rules established by CMS.

We will continue to monitor the effects of PDPM deployment in the market, as well as other reimbursement methodologies, for potential implementation in the coming years. If we decide to make a change, you will be notified in advance in accordance with your contract.



This information is issued on behalf of Highmark Blue Shield and its affiliated Blue companies, which are independent licensees of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association. Highmark Inc. d/b/a Highmark Blue Shield and certain of its affiliated Blue companies serve Blue Shield members in 21 counties in central Pennsylvania and 13 counties in northeastern New York. As a partner in joint operating agreements, Highmark Blue Shield also provides services in conjunction with a separate health plan in southeastern Pennsylvania. Highmark Inc. or certain of its affiliated Blue companies also serve Blue Cross Blue Shield members in 29 counties in western Pennsylvania, 13 counties in northeastern Pennsylvania, the state of West Virginia plus Washington County, Ohio, the state of Delaware and 8 counties in western New York. All references to Highmark in this document are references to Highmark Inc. d/b/a Highmark Blue Shield and/or to one or more of its affiliated Blue companies.

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