

SPECIAL eBULLETIN

FOR PROFESSIONAL PROVIDERS

OCTOBER 1, 2021

ATTN: MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PROVIDERS

UPDATE TO REIMBURSEMENT POLICY 042: GLOBAL SURGERY AND SUBSEQUENT SERVICES

To further align with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and industry standards, Highmark is updating Reimbursement Policy 042: Global Surgery and Subsequent Services (RP-042) with guidance on using modifier 78.

For claims processed on or after December 1, 2021, Highmark will reimburse lines reporting modifier 78 at the code specific intra-op percent (of the approved allowance) as defined on the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS). For more information, review [RP-042](#).

IMPORTANT: This specific payment methodology is specific to Medicare Advantage in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Delaware only. This does not affect the existing payment policy previously announced for commercial lines of business or New York State. As announced on September 1, 2021, Highmark commercial lines of business will reimburse 70% of the allowed amount for claims where the 78 modifier is reported effective November 1, 2021.



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.