

SPECIAL eBULLETIN

FOR FACILITY PROVIDERS

SEPT. 28, 2018

ROUTINE MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SUPPLIES NOT ELIGIBLE FOR SEPARATE REIMBURSEMENT

At Highmark, we are working hard to make sure we are following the latest guidelines from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), or clarifying previously implemented guidance. That way, all of us can focus more time on taking care of patients.

To that end, Highmark has developed a reimbursement policy that aligns with CMS and other industry guidelines regarding charges for routine supplies used during surgeries and other procedures.

Medical supplies used by hospitals are typically grouped into routine and non-routine supply categories from a billing and reimbursement perspective. As a reminder, Highmark's payment for routine supplies or equipment is included in the reimbursement for the primary procedure or service. Therefore, additional charges for routine supplies or equipment used during a normal course of a surgery, treatment, therapy, procedure, or service are not appropriate and are not separately payable.

Highmark's reimbursement policy, Facility Routine Supplies and Services, identifies the most commonly billed routine medical and surgical supplies that have always been and will continue to be ineligible for separate reimbursement. The reimbursement policy contains information about medical devices and standards for billing HCPCS codes A4649 and L8699 with revenue codes 278 or 274 along with an explanation of how to bill Highmark for capital equipment.

Notes:

- Providers with contracts that allow for separate billing of supplies, such as fee-for-service providers, can continue that billing practice under their current contract.
- For both our Commercial and Medicare Advantage members, the Facility Routine Supplies and Services reimbursement policy replaces all prior communications regarding the inclusion of the routine supply or equipment charge into the charges of a procedure, service, charge for the operating room, or other location where the service was provided.

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



FACILITY ROUTINE SUPPLIES AND SERVICES REIMBURSEMENT POLICY AVAILABLE ONLINE

You can review Highmark's Reimbursement Policy RP-040, Facility Routine Supplies and Services, 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.