

TODAY'S MESSAGE

HIGHMARK DELAYS IMPLEMENTATION OF MONITORED ANESTHESIA CARE POLICY

On May 30th, Highmark announced that a policy related to Monitored Anesthesia Care (MAC) will be delayed from its original implementation date of July 1, 2014. Highmark believes that its members deserve to receive the safest and most appropriate care according to established guidelines. That was the rationale behind the recent announcement to continue coverage of monitored anesthesia care for gastrointestinal procedures, but only for patients for whom such general anesthesia is medically necessary. This approach is in line with the guidelines of many national insurers and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) local carriers. After receiving feedback from some physicians, Highmark has decided to delay implementation of the policy as a further study is completed on all implications of this change. Subsequent communications will be issued with more details.