

TODAY'S MESSAGE

OBSTETRICAL ULTRASOUND CRITERIA REVISED

CORRECTION TO OBSTETRICAL ULTRASOUND ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN SEPTEMBER 2015 MEDICAL POLICY UPDATE

The September 2015 *Medical Policy Update* indicated a Nov. 30, 2015, effective date for the new coverage guidelines for Commercial Medical Policy X-17, Obstetrical Ultrasound. However, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield has extended the Nov. 30, 2015 effective date to Jan. 1, 2016.

Highmark has also changed its coverage position on three-dimensional and four-dimensional fetal ultrasounds. As of Jan. 1, 2016, Highmark will consider three-dimensional and four-dimensional fetal ultrasounds experimental or investigational.

Here is the revised version of the September 2015 *Medical Policy Update* article:

Obstetrical Ultrasound Criteria Revised

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield has established new clinical criteria for Medical Policy X-17, Obstetrical Ultrasound. This new criteria will apply to both professional provider and facility claims. The effective date is ~~Nov. 30, 2015~~ Jan. 1, 2016.

More than one two-dimensional (2D) standard obstetrical ultrasound examination per low risk uncomplicated pregnancy is considered not medically necessary.

Three-dimensional (3D) and four-dimensional (4D) fetal ultrasounds are considered ~~not medically necessary~~ experimental/investigational because of a lack of evidence that 3D and 4D ultrasounds alter management over standard two-dimensional (2D) ultrasounds such that clinical outcomes are improved.

Place of Service: Outpatient/Inpatient

For further information, refer to Medical Policy X-17, Obstetrical Ultrasound.