

# HOT TOPIC

## HIGHMARK DELAWARE INTRODUCES A NEW AND EASIER WAY TO FIND MEDICAL POLICIES

### SIMPLE-TO-USE SEARCH FUNCTION NOW AVAILABLE!

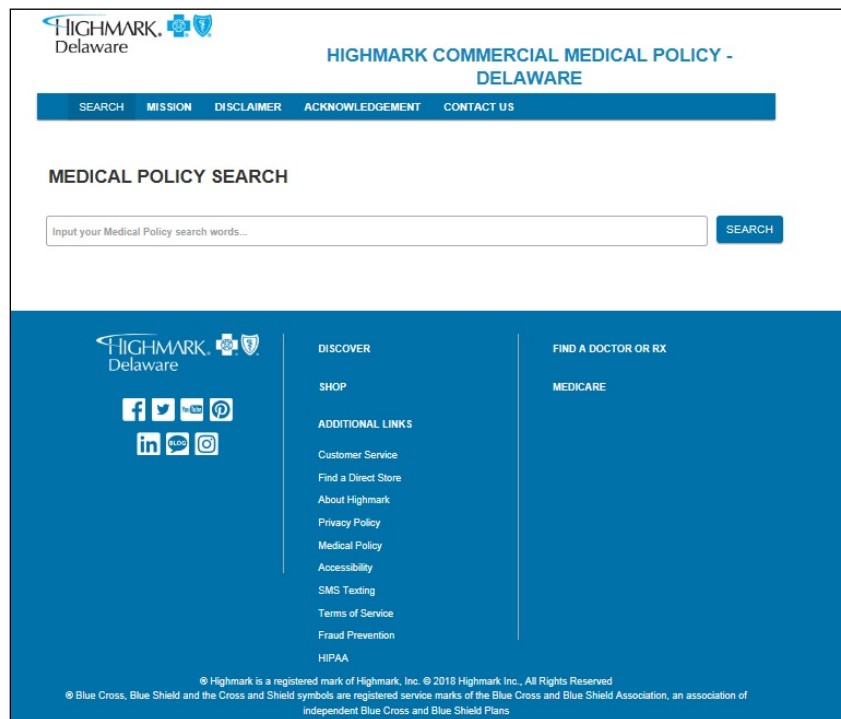
Searching for Highmark Delaware's Commercial medical policies on the Provider Resource Center just got easier. We know you rely on our medical policies every day for the information you need to treat our members effectively and efficiently, and we want to help you locate the policies you need quickly. That's why we're bringing you a new feature that gives you improved navigation and functionality — making the search for you fast and effortless.

### WHAT'S NEW

In addition to redesigning the look of the medical policy section on the Provider Resource Center, we've also refined and added a new search function. We've created the new search function with you in mind, to help you find the medical policies you need immediately.

**Note:** Highmark Delaware's Medical Policy website works best if viewed with the latest version of Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, or Safari web browsers. For the best performance and security, always keep your web browser up to date.

Here's what the new Medical Policy search function looks like:



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You can search for a particular medical policy by entering a key word, a diagnosis, a CPT or HCPCS code, or the policy number. Once you enter the appropriate search terms, here are the types of results you'll see:

The screenshot displays the Highmark Delaware website interface. At the top, the logo and navigation menu are visible. A search bar is present with a 'SEARCH' button. Below the search bar, a navigation menu lists various categories such as 'Academy Services', 'Assessments', 'Consultations', etc. The main content area shows 'Search results' with a table listing policy details.

Section	Policy Title	Policy Number	Effective Date	Policy Type
Medications	Blot and Skin Moist Storage	2-26	01/01/2017	Policy
Diagnosis Medical	Medically Unexplained Abdominal Pain	44-75	08/01/2017	Policy
Surgeries	Endoscopic Prostatectomy	6-73	03/01/2017	Policy
Surgeries	Highmark, Blue-Cross Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement	6-224	01/01/2014	Policy
Surgeries	Highmark, Blue-Cross Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement	6-271	01/01/2018	Policy
Surgeries	Pharmaceutical Cost Share for a Range of Non-Tobacco	6-226	03/01/2017	Policy
Medications	Short-Acting Performance Enhancers	6-19	04/11/2016	Policy
Medications	Treatment of Low-Titer Transfusion Transmitted Infections	6-14	05/01/2011	Policy
Surgeries	Highmark, Blue-Cross Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement	6-226	03/01/2017	Policy
Surgeries	Lymphatic Lesions and Small Lymphatic Lesions	6-226	03/01/2017	Policy
Lab/Imaging	Diagnostic Gene Sequencing	2-236	03/01/2014	Policy

Below the search results, there is an 'Attachments' section with a list of documents and their corresponding attachment types.

At the bottom of the page, there is a footer area with the Highmark Delaware logo, social media icons, and a list of links including 'WELCOME', 'ABOUT US', 'CONTACT US', 'FAQ', 'SUPPORT', 'POLICIES', 'TERMS OF SERVICE', 'PRIVACY POLICY', 'MEDICAL POLICY', 'ACCESSIBILITY', 'RISK TOLING', 'NEWS & EVENTS', and 'FOOD & BEVERAGE'.

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Select the medical policy you want to review, click on it, and you'll receive the requested medical policy.



## HIGHMARK COMMERCIAL MEDICAL POLICY - DELAWARE

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SEARCH

**Medical Policy:** S-232-008  
**Topic:** Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR)  
**Section:** Surgery  
**Effective Date:** February 26, 2018  
**Issued Date:** February 26, 2018  
**Last Revision Date:** October 2017

Transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI) is a potential alternative treatment for individuals with severe aortic stenosis. Many individuals with aortic stenosis are very elderly and/or have multiple medical comorbidities, indicating high-risk and often prohibitive for surgery. This procedure is being evaluated as an alternative to open surgery for high-risk individuals with aortic stenosis and as an alternative to non-surgical therapy for individuals with a prohibitive risk for surgery.

*This policy is designed to address medical guidelines that are appropriate for the majority of individuals with a particular disease, illness, or condition. Each person's unique clinical circumstances may warrant individual consideration, based on review of applicable medical records.*

**Policy Position** Coverage is subject to the specific terms of the member's benefit plan.

TAVR performed via the transfemoral or transapical approach, for severe aortic stenosis, using a Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved Transcatheter Heart Valve System, may be considered medically necessary when **ALL** of the following criteria are met:

- The individual has aortic stenosis with a calcified aortic annulus, as defined by **ONE** or **MORE** of the following criteria:
  - An aortic valve area of less than 0.8 cm<sup>2</sup>, or
  - An aortic valve area index of less than or equal to 0.6 cm<sup>2</sup>/m<sup>2</sup>, or
  - A mean aortic valve gradient greater than 40 mmHg, or
  - A peak aortic-jet velocity greater than 4.0 m/sec; **and**
- The individual has New York Heart Association (NYHA) Classification II, III or IV symptoms:
  - I. No symptoms and no limitation in ordinary physical activity, (e.g., shortness of breath when walking, climbing stairs etc.).
  - II. Mild symptoms (mild shortness of breath and/or angina) and slight limitation during ordinary activity.
  - III. Marked limitation in activity due to symptoms, even during less-than-ordinary activity, e.g., walking short distances (20-100m). Comfortable only at rest.
  - IV. Severe limitations. Experiences symptoms even while at rest. Mostly bedbound individuals; **and**
- Left ventricular ejection fraction greater than 20%; **and**
- The individual is not an operable candidate for open surgery, as determined by at least two (2) cardiovascular specialists (cardiologist and/or cardiac surgeon); or individual is an operable candidate but is at intermediate risk or high risk for open surgery; **and**
- The procedure is being performed by a professional provider and at a facility that meets the recommendations for performing TAVR, as set forth in the Credentialing Recommendations for Heart Valve Replacement Procedure, established in collaboration with the following cardiovascular specialty societies: the American College of Cardiology Foundation (ACCF), the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI), the American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS), and the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS).

TAVR with a transcatheter heart valve system approved for use for repair of a degenerated bioprosthetic valve may be considered medically necessary when **ALL** of the following conditions are present:

- Failed (stenosed, insufficient, or combined) of a surgical bioprosthetic aortic valve; **and**
- NYHA heart failure class II, III or IV symptoms; **and**
- Left ventricular ejection fraction greater than 20%; **and**
- The individual is not an operable candidate for open surgery, as determined by at least two (2) cardiovascular specialists (cardiologist and/or cardiac surgeon) or individual is an operable candidate but is at immediate risk or high risk for open surgery.

TAVR is considered not medically necessary when performed for indications other than those listed in the above criteria.

Procedure Codes

33361 33362 33363 33364 33365 33366 33367 33368 33369 93591

**Place of Service:** Inpatient

**The policy position applies to all commercial lines of business**

**Links**

- [Link to Provider Resource Center for the Medical Policy Update 12/2017 Revised Criteria for Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement \(TAVR\)](#)
- [Link to Diagnosis Codes](#)
- [Link to References](#)

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Highmark Delaware's Commercial medical policies are available on the Provider Resource Center under the **Claims, Payment & Reimbursement** option. Once you choose **Claims, Payment & Reimbursement**, then select **Medical Policy**. For quick access to our medical policies, you can select **Medical Policy Search** from the Quicklinks bar on the Provider Resource Center. We hope you take time to explore our new medical policy search function and will find it easy to use.