

## HOT TOPIC

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

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

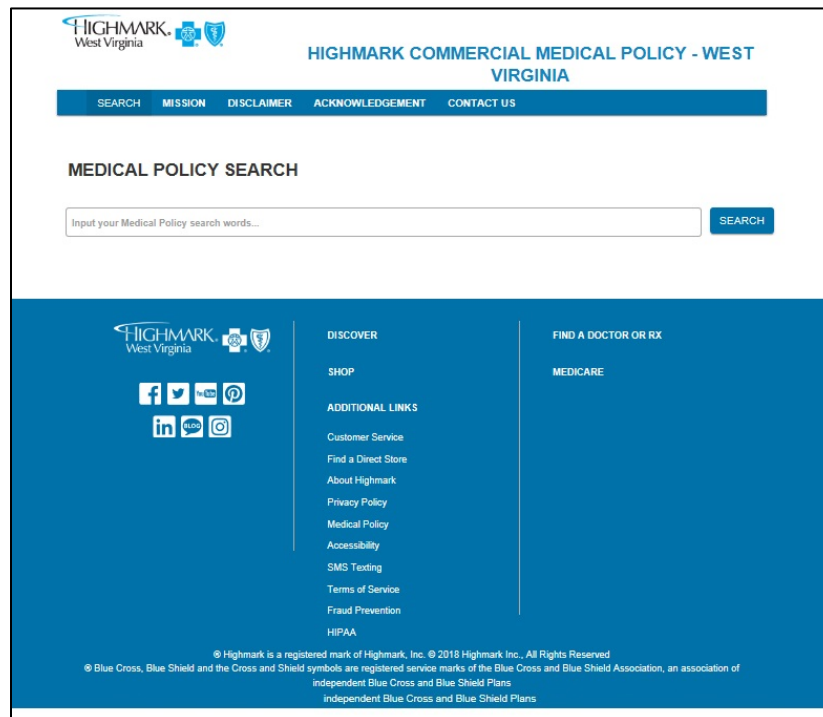
Searching for Highmark West Virginia's Commercial and Medicare Advantage medical policies on the Provider Resource Center just got easier. We know you rely on our medical policies every day for the information you need to treat our members effectively and efficiently, and we want to help you locate the 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, our real users, 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 West Virginia'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 shows the Highmark Commercial Medical Policy - West Virginia website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for SEARCH, WEBINAR, DISCLAIMER, ACKNOWLEDGMENT, and CONTACT US. Below this is a search bar with a search button. A message below the search bar reads: "This site works best if viewed with the latest version of Internet Explorer (IE) or a Web browser. For the best performance and security, please keep your web browser up-to-date."

Below the search bar is a section for "Section" with a list of categories: Hematology, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Infectious Disease, Oncology, Orthopedics, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Pulmonary, Rheumatology, Urology, and Women's Health. A second row of categories includes: Endocrine Therapy & Biologics, Radiation Oncology, Cardiology, Surgery, Therapy, and Vascular.

The "Search results" section shows a table with the following columns: Section, Policy Topic, Policy Number, Effective Date, and History. The results are as follows:

Section	Policy Topic	Policy Number	Effective Date	History
Medicine	Food and Drug Admin Storage	2-40	04/01/14	History
Diagnostic Medical	Automated Blood Pressure Monitoring (ABPM)	4-70	09/01/17	History
Surgery	Extracranial Phlebectomy	6-75	02/01/17	History
Surgery	Hemiplegic Stem Cell Transplantation for Epilepsy	9-210	01/01/18	History
Surgery	Hemiplegic Stem Cell Transplantation for Intractable Epilepsy	9-224	01/01/18	History
Surgery	Pharmacological Card Block as a Route of Stem Cells	9-226	06/01/17	History
Medicine	Treatment of Twin-Twin Transfusion Syndrome with Amniocentesis and/or Fetal Laser Therapy	9-8	08/01/17	History
Surgery	Hemiplegic Stem Cell Transplantation for Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia and Small Lymphocytic Lymphoma	9-228	01/01/18	History
Laboratory	GeneScan Plus RFLP Genotyping	1-238	01/01/18	History
Surgery	Hemiplegic Stem Cell Transplantation for Multiple Myeloma and/or MDS	9-227	01/01/18	History

Below the search results is an "Attachments" section with a table listing various documents and their download links.

At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with the Highmark West Virginia logo, social media icons, and a list of links including: WELCOME, ABOUT, ADDITIONAL LINKS (Customer Service, Find a Care Team, About Highmark, Privacy Policy, Medical Policy, Accessibility, SMI Testing, Terms of Service, Fraud Prevention, HIPAA), WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA, and MEDIA. The footer also contains copyright information: "© Highmark is a registered mark of Highmark, Inc. © 2018 Highmark Inc. All Rights Reserved." and "© Blue Cross, Blue Shield and the Cross and Shield symbols are registered service marks of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an association of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans."

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



## HIGHMARK COMMERCIAL MEDICAL POLICY - WEST VIRGINIA

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**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

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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

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**Place of Service:** Inpatient

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

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**Denial Statements**

Services that do not meet the criteria of this policy will not be considered medically necessary. A network provider cannot bill the member for the denied service unless: (a) the provider has given advance written notice, informing the member that the service may be deemed not medically necessary; (b) the member is provided with an estimate of the cost; and (c) the member agrees in writing to assume financial responsibility in advance of receiving the service. The signed agreement must be maintained in the provider's records.

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**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 West Virginia's Commercial and Medicare Advantage 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.