

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 West Virginia (Highmark West Virginia) has extended the Nov. 30, 2015 effective date to Jan. 1, 2016.

Highmark West Virginia has also changed its coverage position on three-dimensional and four-dimensional fetal ultrasounds. As of Jan. 1, 2016, Highmark West Virginia 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 West Virginia 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.