Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield

Inpatient Readmissions Medicare Advantage Update

In an effort to identify clinically related readmissions to the same facility, licensed clinical staff with Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield will review at the time of an inpatient authorization, the clinical information submitted regarding the medical treatment and management of an admission that occurred within 2-30 days from a previous admission to the same facility. If an admission is believed to be related, an Anthem medical director will contact the admitting physician to confirm that the clinical information is accurate. If the second admission is determined to be clinically related, we will not reimburse for an additional admission as this is considered a continuation of the episode of care. This process will be implemented June 2017.

Policy Update
(Policy 13-001)

Based on the information above, Anthem’s Inpatient Readmissions reimbursement policy has been updated. Anthem will utilize information indicating clinically-related readmissions, clinical criteria and/or licensed clinical medical review for readmissions from day 2 to day 30 for the second admission determination. Please refer to the Inpatient Readmissions reimbursement policy at www.anthem.com/medicareprovider for additional information.

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