Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield

Medicare Advantage Reimbursement Policy Provider Bulletin

July 2018

These policies serve as a guide to assist you in accurate claim submissions and to outline the basis for reimbursement if the service is covered by a member’s Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield benefit plan. Services must meet authorization and medical necessity guidelines appropriate to the procedure and diagnosis as well as to the member’s state of residence. Proper billing and submission guidelines are required along with the use of industry-standard, compliant codes on all claim submissions. System logic or setup may prevent the loading of policies into the claims platforms in the same manner as described; however, we strive to minimize these variations. For more information on these and other Anthem Reimbursement Policies, click here.

Policy Update

Medical Recalls
(Policy 06-111 - effective 11/01/2018)

In applicable circumstances, the appropriate modifier, condition code or value code, identified below, should be used to identify a medically recalled item. This will assist Anthem in identifying medically recalled items and support correct coding guidelines.

Applicable condition codes are 49 and 50. Condition code 49 signifies products replaced within the product lifecycle due to the product not functioning properly, and condition code 50 is used for product replacement for known recall of a product.

When a credit or cost reduction is received by the provider for the replacement device, applicable modifiers are FB and FC. Modifier FB is used when items are provided without cost to the provider, supplier, or practitioner, and modifier FC is used when a partial credit is received by the provider, supplier, or practitioner for the replacement device.

Note: In circumstances where we have reimbursed the provider for repair or replacement of items or procedures related to items due to a medical recall, we are entitled to recoup or recover fees from the manufacturer and/or distributor, as applicable. In circumstances where we have reimbursed the provider the full or partial cost of a replaced device and the provider received a full or partial credit for the device, we are entitled to recoup or recover fees from the provider.

Please refer to CMS and/or your states guidelines and the Medical Recalls reimbursement policy for additional details click here.
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