

Payment Policy | Emergency Department Services Waiver of Copayment



EFFECTIVE DATE: 01|01|2015
POLICY LAST UPDATED: 07|01|2014

OVERVIEW

This policy defines the requirements for waiving Emergency Room copayments in certain instances.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Not applicable

POLICY STATEMENT

BlueCHiP for Medicare

Treatments for medical emergencies are covered services.

Contractual copayment for Emergency Department Services is waived, when allowed by a specific group or contract, if **one** of the following conditions is met:

- I. The member is admitted to the hospital within 24 hours of treatment in the emergency department; **OR**
- II. The member is dead on arrival (DOA) to the emergency department, or expires in the emergency department

Note: For services that are not included in the reimbursement of the ER ie MRI or MRA, applicable copays for those services still apply.

Commercial

Treatments for medical emergencies are covered services.

Contractual copayment for Emergency Department Services is waived, when allowed by a specific group or contract, if **one** of the following conditions is met:

- I. The member is admitted to the hospital within 24 hours of treatment in the emergency department; **OR**
- II. The member is dead on arrival (DOA) to the emergency department, or expires in the emergency department; **OR**
- III. The member is admitted to the hospital under an OBSERVATION status.

Note: For services that are not included in the reimbursement of the ER ie MRI or MRA, applicable copays for those services still apply.

MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not Applicable, this is a reimbursement policy

BACKGROUND

An emergency department is defined as an organized hospital-based facility for the provision of unscheduled episodic services to patients who are present for immediate medical attention. The facility must be available 24 hours a day.

COVERAGE

BlueCHiP for Medicare | Commercial |

Benefits may vary. Please refer to the appropriate Evidence of Coverage, Subscriber Agreement, or Benefit Booklet for applicable benefits/coverage.

CODING

Not applicable

RELATED POLICIES

Emergency Room Reimbursement

PUBLISHED

Provider Update	Mar 2008
Policy Update	Jun 2007

REFERENCES

Not applicable

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