

Special Bulletin

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Billing Guidelines for Tdap and Tetanus-Only Vaccine Administration

It is important that providers understand how to appropriately bill for Medicare-covered immunizations in order for the member to receive coverage under the appropriate benefit category. Prescription drugs that are covered under the member's Part D benefit cannot be paid by the Plan under the medical (Part B) portion of their benefit plan.

For this reason network physicians are reminded of the following:

With regard to the use of immunizations, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Medicare Benefit Policy Manual (IOM 100-02), Chapter 15, Section 50.4.4.2, states: "*Vaccinations or inoculations are excluded as immunizations unless they are directly related to the treatment of an injury or direct exposure to a disease or condition, such as anti-rabies treatment, tetanus antitoxin or booster vaccine, botulin antitoxin, antivenin sera, or immune globulin. In the absence of injury or direct exposure, preventive immunization (vaccination or inoculation against such diseases as smallpox, polio, diphtheria, etc.), is not covered. However, pneumococcal, hepatitis B, and influenza virus vaccines are exceptions to this rule.*"

- These policies also apply to Highmark Health Insurance Company (HHIC) Medicare Advantage FreedomBlueSM PPO members.
- In the event of **exposure**, physicians must use the **AT modifier** when billing either tetanus or Tdap administration. Failure to use the AT modifier will result in a claim denial and members cannot be billed since it was a billing oversight that caused the denial.
- Tetanus or Tdap provided for **preventive care** must be billed with a **GA modifier** signifying that the member has been informed that the service will not be covered under the medical (Part B) benefit. Members can pay the physician privately and submit the receipt for reimbursement under their Part D prescription drug plan. Reimbursement will be based on the member's Part D plan benefits and cost sharing.

For more information, including appropriate indications and limitations of coverage for Tdap and tetanus-only vaccines, please refer to HHIC Medicare Advantage Medical Policy I-8. To access HHIC Medicare Advantage Medical Policies, visit the online Provider Resource Center via NaviNet[®] or through the *Providers* tab at www.highmarkbcbswv.com. Then, click on *Highmark West Virginia*, where you will find a subsequent link titled *Medical Policy*. Next, use the *Search Medicare Advantage Medical Policies* link, under which you can search for Medicare Advantage Medical Policy I-8.

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