

# PROVIDER BULLETIN

## Provider information



March 7, 2013

### Observation room policy revision

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) policy for observation room services (revenue code 0762) will be revised effective April 29, 2013. The current policy found in Chapter 8 of our online Provider Policy and Procedure Manual at [providers.bluecrossmn.com](http://providers.bluecrossmn.com) states that observation is allowed for admits of fewer than 24 hours and that a claim for observation services over 24 hours will be processed as an inpatient claim.

Effective April 29, 2013, and after the policy will be revised as follows:

#### **Observation Room**

Observation care, billed under revenue code 0762, normally does not extend beyond 24 hours. However, claims for observation services over 24 hours will be allowed up to 48 hours. Excess services/observation time over 48 hours will be denied, with the exception of services for our Minnesota Health Care Program subscribers. Observation services/time between 49 and 72 hours will be reviewed for our Minnesota Health Care Program subscribers. All observation services over 72 hours will be denied.

#### **Coding requirements reminder**

All coding and reimbursement is subject to changes, updates or other requirements of coding rules and guidelines. All codes are subject to federal HIPAA rules, and in the case of medical code sets (for example, HCPCS, CPT, ICD-9-CM), only valid codes for the date of service may be submitted or accepted.

#### **Questions?**

If you have questions, please contact provider services at **(651) 662-5200** or toll free at **1-800-262-0820**.

HCPCS stands for Health Care Procedure Coding System

CPT® (Current Procedural Terminology) is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association

ICD-9-CM stands for International Classification of Diseases 9th revision Clinical Modification

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