

Quick Points



June 27, 2011

Blue Cross to implement new pricing system

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, Blue Plus and BlueLink TPA (Blue Cross) will implement a new pricing system that will be phased in during July 2011. This new pricing system supports a larger range of provider reimbursement methodologies and enables Blue Cross to automate pricing for many unique contract arrangements.

Impact to providers

Providers will see more accuracy and consistency in the pricing of their claims. Some impacts include:

- All codes and all positions on codes submitted on the claim will be used for pricing including surgical procedures, diagnosis codes and when applicable, Present on Admission indicators for DRG calculation, outpatient category determination and other case rate determination
- For professional claims, up to 4 modifiers as submitted will be used for adjudication
- For multiple surgery pricing, the highest allowed service will be priced at 100 percent rather than the surgery that was billed with the highest charge
- Bilateral surgeries will be reimbursed when coded appropriately using a single service line with the -50 modifier (refer to the Minnesota state rules regarding bilateral procedure billing)
- Anesthesia risk factors will be priced independently of the anesthesia line for easier posting of payments to accounts and greater accuracy of payments
- Mid-level practitioner reductions will be automated and priced more accurately (for example, Ph.D.)
- The new system will price precisely to the allowance rather than inconsistently buffering the price to the nearest dollar. Rounding, when necessary based on the pricing calculation, will be consistent and automated.

Questions?

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