



Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama Hospital Claims Filing Guidelines

Since October 1, 2008, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama has not covered or reimbursed Hospitals for “Adverse Events,” previously known as “Serious Preventable Events.”

Currently, the policy includes eight Adverse Events that require the filing of a Present on Admission (POA) indicator with a diagnosis code. The eight Adverse Events are from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ (CMS) Inpatient Prospective Payment Policy for Hospitals for 2008 and are hospital-acquired conditions. Following are the eight events and their corresponding International Classification of Diseases – Ninth Revision (ICD-9) diagnosis codes:

Adverse Event	ICD-9 Diagnosis Code(s)
Object left in the body after surgery	998.4, 998.7
Air embolism	999.1
Blood incompatibility	999.6
Hospital-acquired pressure ulcers (decubitus ulcers) - stage three and four	707.23 and 707.24
Hospital-acquired catheter associated urinary tract infections	996.64 <i>Note:</i> 996.64 does not need to be coded as present on admission (POA) if one of the following codes is present on the claim, also: 112.2, 590.10, 590.11, 590.2, 590.3, 590.80, 590.81, 595, 597, 599
Hospital-acquired vascular catheter-associated infection	999.31
Hospital-acquired mediastinitis after coronary artery bypass surgery	519.2 and one of the following procedure codes: 36.10-36.19
Falls and trauma (hospital acquired) - fractures, dislocations, intracranial injuries, crushing injuries and burns	800-829, 830-839, 850-854, 925-929, 940-949, 991-994

Important Information

The following disclaimer is applicable to all telephone inquiries and automated communications systems (i.e., InfoSolutions®, telephone, and fax) to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama:

The information provided is only general benefit information and is not a guarantee of payment. Benefits are always subject to the terms and limitations of the plan and no employee of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama has authority to enlarge or expand the terms of the plan. The availability of benefits is always conditioned upon the patient’s coverage and the existence of a contract for plan benefits as of the date of service. A loss of coverage, as well as contract termination, can occur under certain circumstances. There will be no benefits available if such circumstances occur.

Note: Please refer to our web site, bcbsal.com, for the most current benefit and policy information.

Effective October 1, 2009, the following CMS events and the corresponding diagnosis codes will be added to the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama Adverse Events policy:

Adverse Event	ICD-9 Diagnosis Codes
Surgical-site infections following certain orthopedic procedures: Spine, Neck, Shoulder, Elbow	(996.67 or 998.59) and one of the following procedure codes: 81.01-81.08, 81.23-81.24, 81.31-81.38, 81.83, or 81.85
Surgical-site infections following certain bariatric surgery for obesity: Laparoscopic Gastric Bypass, Gastroenterostomy, Laparoscopic Gastric Restrictive Surgery	(278.01 AND 998.59) and one of the following procedure codes: 44.38,44.39,or 44.95
Manifestations of poor glycemic control: Diabetic Ketoacidosis, Nonketotic Hyperosmolar Coma, Hypoglycemic Coma, Secondary Diabetes with Ketoacidosis, Secondary Diabetes with Hyperosmolarity	250.10-250.13, 250.20-250.23, 251.0, 249.10-249.11, 249.20-249.21 (Corrected 8/3/2010)
Deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism following certain orthopedic procedures	(453.40-453.42 or 415.11 or 415.19) and one of the following procedure codes: 81.54 or 00.85-00.87, 81.51-81.52

The above conditions will require one of the following POA indicators, the same as the 2008 Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama Adverse Events:

- Y - Yes. Diagnosis was present at time of inpatient admission.
- N - No. Diagnosis was not present at time of inpatient admission.
- U - No information in the record. Documentation insufficient to determine if the condition was present at the time of inpatient admission.
- W - Clinically undetermined. Provider unable to clinically determine whether the condition was present at the time of inpatient admission.
- 1 - Exempt from POA Reporting. This is defined by the CMS Inpatient Prospective Payment Policy for Hospitals, and these CMS guidelines will be followed by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama.

Additional information regarding Adverse Events may be found on our web site at www.bcbsal.com.