

Updates on temporary sequestration relief and DRG enhancement for Medicare Advantage

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network will conclude the temporary sequestration relief and the inpatient diagnosis-related group enhancement for Medicare Advantage patients diagnosed with COVID-19 in accordance with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. At this time, sequestration is scheduled to be reinstated for dates of service beginning Jan. 1, 2021. The 20% increase in the weighting factor for inpatient DRG payments for Medicare patients diagnosed with COVID-19 is scheduled to end when the public health emergency ends.

As a reminder, providers are expected to follow CMS guidance that claims eligible for the temporary inpatient DRG enhancement must have a positive COVID-19 laboratory test in the patient's medical record effective for admissions on or after Sept. 1, 2020.

More information is available in the October *Record* and will also be published in the Nov.-Dec. *BCN Provider News*.

Please consult the *Temporary changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic* document for these and other changes temporarily put in place for the public health crisis.