

TO BE RESCINDED

5160-2-21 Reimbursement for services provided in an outpatient hospital setting.

(A) All hospitals that are subject to DRG (diagnosis related group) prospective payment as described in rule 5160-2-65 of the Administrative Code and that provide covered outpatient hospital services to eligible medicaid beneficiaries as defined in rule 5160-2-02 of the Administrative Code are subject to the payment policies described in this rule. Hospital classifications referred to in this rule and the appendices are described in rule 5160-2-07.02 of the Administrative Code.

(B) The words and terms described in paragraphs (B)(1) to (B)(5) of this rule have the following meanings, unless the context indicates otherwise.

(1) Outpatient invoice.

An "outpatient invoice" is a bill, submitted in accordance with Chapter 5160-1 of the Administrative Code, to the department for services rendered to one eligible medicaid beneficiary on one or more date(s) of service. An invoice encompassing more than one date of service is referred to in this rule as a "cycle bill."

(2) Outpatient claim.

An "outpatient claim" is defined as those outpatient services rendered to one eligible medicaid beneficiary on one date of service. In the instance of "cycle bills," as indicated in paragraph (B)(1) of this rule, more than one claim may appear on an invoice.

(3) Procedure code.

(a) In this rule, a "procedure code" refers to the current procedural terminology (CPT) codes and healthcare common procedure coding system (HCPCS) as identified in rule 5160-1-19 of the Administrative Code. Guidelines and definitions for level of care determinations and for new and established patient definitions are as published in the CPT and HCPCS volumes. Applicable HCPCS modifiers are listed in appendix A to this rule.

(b) At the beginning of each calendar year, the centers for medicare and medicaid services (CMS) and the American medical association (AMA) may add procedure codes, discontinue (delete) procedure codes, and revise the descriptions of a covered procedure, service, or supply

represented by a HCPCS procedure code, that take effect on January first of the following calendar year. Coverage of new CPT and HCPCS codes will be determined by the department. Effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2016, the initial maximum payment amount is set at seventy-six per cent of the medicare allowed amount but is not to exceed the medicaid allowed amount of similar procedure codes. For convenience, a list of such initial maximum payment amounts shall be posted no later than January first of each year on the department's web site, <http://medicaid.ohio.gov/>.

(4) Revenue center codes.

"Revenue center codes," as referenced in this rule, are those in effect on the date of service and are listed in appendix I of the department's hospital billing guidelines as published on the department's web site, <http://medicaid.ohio.gov/>.

(5) National drug code.

"National drug code" (NDC) is the actual coding used on the pharmaceutical container from which the product was dispensed and that satisfies the medicaid drug rebate requirements. Hospitals may report NDCs on all claims containing pharmaceutical line items.

(C) Implementation and billing procedures.

The provisions of this rule are effective for claims associated with outpatient hospital services delivered on or after the effective date of this rule.

All outpatient services must be billed in accordance with Chapter 5160-1 of the Administrative Code. All revenue centers listed in appendix B to this rule require CPT or HCPCS coding. Additionally, a date of service is required on each line of the invoice for each service rendered. A diagnosis code(s) indicating the reasons for the outpatient treatment is required on each invoice. All physician, home health, and other professional services must continue to be billed separately.

(D) Dialysis service claims.

A dialysis service claim is identified by the presence of a CPT code in the range 90951 through 90999.

Dialysis services will be paid according to the fee schedule in appendix F to this rule. Radiology, pregnancy-related services, and laboratory services will continue to be paid in accordance with paragraphs (I) and (K) of this rule. IV therapy will be

paid in accordance with paragraph (G)(2)(e) of this rule and ancillary services will be paid in accordance with paragraph (J) of this rule.

(E) Chemotherapy service claims.

A chemotherapy service claim is identified by the presence of a CPT code in the range 96400 through 96549, excluding codes 96521, 96522, and 96523. Except for radiology services that will be paid in accordance with paragraph (I) of this rule, and laboratory and pregnancy-related services that will be paid in accordance with paragraph (K) of this rule, allowable charges submitted on chemotherapy service claims will be paid by multiplying those charges by the hospital's specific medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratio. The medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratio is described in paragraph (B)(2) of rule 5160-2-22 of the Administrative Code.

(F) Outpatient surgical service claims.

(1) Surgical service billing requirements.

An "outpatient surgical service claim" is a claim that carries a CPT code in the 10021-69990 range that is a grouped outpatient surgical code listed in appendix C to this rule that does not include chemotherapy or emergency room codes modified by modifier -22 (as described in paragraphs (E) and (H)(1) of this rule). Claims for outpatient surgery services must include all outpatient services performed on that date of service.

(2) Surgical services claims payment.

(a) Unlisted surgical procedures.

A surgical procedure is defined as "unlisted" if the CPT code ends in "99" and is defined as an "unlisted procedure" in the description or is surgical CPT code number 23929, 26989, 37501, 38589, 43289, 43659, 44238, 44979, 47379, 47579, 49329, 49659, 50549, 50949, 55559, 58578, 58579, 58679, 59897, 59898, 60659, 69949, or 69979.

For dates of service on or after January 1, 2014: Unlisted surgery codes will be assigned to a surgical group and paid according to the methodology in paragraphs (F)(2)(b) and (F)(2)(c) of this rule, except as provided in paragraph (F)(2)(b)(iii) of this rule.

(b) Surgical procedure codes that are not unlisted.

(i) When a claim carries a CPT surgery code, the claim will be assigned

to a surgical grouping and paid in accordance with appendix C to this rule. If the claim includes one surgical CPT code, payment will be based upon the surgical payment rate of the group listed in appendix C to this rule to which that CPT code is assigned.

If the claim includes two or more surgical procedure codes, payment will be based on one hundred per cent of the surgical payment rate of the highest group listed in appendix C to this rule to which one of the surgical CPT procedure codes is assigned. Additional payment will be made by multiplying .50 times the surgical payment rate of the group(s) to which the other surgical CPT code(s) is(are) assigned. This applies to all surgical CPT codes billed on a claim for the same date of service, regardless of whether the surgical procedures are bilateral, identical, or non-identical procedures. If the claim includes identical surgical CPT codes but those CPT codes represent procedures that would not be performed more than one time on the same patient on the same day, only one of the procedures will be paid.

The payment rates shown in appendix C to this rule represent payment in full for all services performed in conjunction with outpatient surgery except for radiology, pregnancy-related services, laboratory services and observation services. Radiology service line items will be paid in accordance with paragraph (I) of this rule; laboratory and pregnancy-related service line items will be paid in accordance with paragraph (K) of this rule, and observation services will be paid in accordance with paragraph (M) of this rule.

(ii) Surgical claim edits.

Surgical CPT codes that include the administration of anesthesia in the description of that CPT code will only be reimbursed when an anesthesia CPT code in the range 00100-01999 is also coded on the claim. These surgical CPT codes that must be used in conjunction with an anesthesia code are identified in appendix C to this rule.

Certain surgical CPT codes will be reimbursed only when they appear on a claim that contains no other CPT codes in the surgery range. The CPT codes that must appear alone for reimbursement are those in the surgical range that are usually performed as part of another surgery. These codes are identified in appendix C to this rule. Certain surgical CPT codes will only be reimbursed if a prior authorization number is obtained from the department; these

codes are identified in appendix C to this rule.

- (iii) Special unlisted dental surgery pricing for claims with an intellectual disability diagnosis code.

For hospitals that had a ratio of unlisted dental surgery services provided to patients with an intellectual disability diagnosis to total unlisted dental surgery services greater than the calendar year 2012 Ohio medicaid fee-for-service mean ratio of unlisted dental surgery claims with an intellectual disability diagnosis to total unlisted dental surgery services plus three standard deviations and also had an average cost for unlisted dental surgery services provided to individuals with intellectual disabilities greater than the calendar year 2012 Ohio medicaid fee-for-service mean cost for unlisted dental surgery services provided to individuals with an intellectual disability diagnosis: For dates of service on or between January 1, 2014 and September 30, 2015, claims billed with CPT code 41899 and an ICD-9 diagnosis code of 317, 318.0, 318.1, 318.2, or 319 will be paid five thousand five hundred dollars per claim. For dates of service on or between October 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015, claims billed with CPT code 41899 and an ICD-10 diagnosis code of F70, F71, F72, F73, F78, or F79 will be paid five thousand five hundred dollars per claim.

- (c) Canceled surgeries.

It is the intent of the department to reimburse hospitals for canceled surgeries that are the result of medical complications arising after the patient is in the operating room.

To qualify for payment for a canceled surgery, the invoice must carry the occurrence code established to report the scheduled date of the canceled surgery and the CPT code for the surgery must be modified by the CPT modifier -73 or -74, as listed in appendix A to this rule, to report the canceled surgery.

If the code indicating that medical complications arose after patient prepping but before anesthesia is used, the payment will be based upon fifty per cent of the scheduled surgery group payment rate. If the code indicating that medical complications arose after anesthesia was induced is used, payment will be based upon one hundred per cent of the scheduled surgery group payment rate.

If a multiple surgery had been scheduled, the appropriate percentage

(fifty or one hundred per cent) will be applied to the highest surgery payment group to which the scheduled surgery codes are assigned.

(G) Clinic service claims.

(1) Clinic service billing requirements.

A claim is identified as a "clinic claim" if it carries one of the clinic visit codes listed in appendix D to this rule and does not include dialysis, chemotherapy, or surgical services as described in paragraphs (D), (E), and (F) of this rule.

More than one clinic visit per beneficiary, per provider, per day is permissible and reimbursable if each clinic visit occurs in a distinct and separate clinic or if the patient visits the clinic, leaves the hospital, and subsequently returns on the same date of service. If the patient had a clinic visit on the same day as a visit to the emergency room of the same hospital, the emergency room visit may also qualify for payment as listed in appendix E to this rule.

(2) Clinic service claim payment.

Payments for clinic visits will be made in accordance with the fees listed in appendix D to this rule. Payments for clinic visits represent payment in full except for the additional payments that may be made for services described in paragraphs (G)(2)(a) to (G)(2)(f) of this rule.

- (a) Additional payments may be made for ancillary services in accordance with paragraph (J) of this rule.
- (b) Additional payments may be made for laboratory services in accordance with paragraph (K) of this rule.
- (c) Additional payments may be made for radiology services in accordance with paragraph (I) of this rule.
- (d) Additional payments may be made for emergency room visits in accordance with paragraph (H) of this rule.
- (e) For dates of service on or after January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2015: Additional payments will be made for charges listed in line items that carry revenue center code 025X (with no CPT code present) and/or revenue center code 0636 (with a valid HCPCS J-code) when the claim

carries IV therapy CPT code 96365, 96366, 96367, or 96368. These additional payments will be calculated by multiplying those charges listed in those line items that carry revenue center code 025X (with no CPT code present) and/or revenue center code 0636 (with a valid HCPCS J-code) by sixty per cent of the hospital's specific medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratio. The medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratio is described in paragraph (B)(2) of rule 5160-2-22 of the Administrative Code.

For dates of service on or after January 1, 2016: Additional payments will be made for charges listed in line items that carry revenue center code 025X and/or revenue center code 0636 with a provider-administered pharmaceutical HCPCS J-code or a select Q-code (as listed in appendix I of this rule) when the claim carries IV therapy CPT code 96365, 96366, 96367, or 96368. These additional payments will be calculated as follows:

- (i) Charges listed in line items that carry revenue center code 025X without a provider-administered pharmaceutical HCPCS J-code or Q-code when an applicable J-code or Q-code does not exist for the provider-administered pharmaceutical for the date of service will be multiplied by sixty per cent of the hospital's specific medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratio. The medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratio is described in paragraph (B)(2) of rule 5160-2-22 of the Administrative Code. NDCs may be reported on all pharmaceutical line items.
 - (ii) Line items that carry revenue center code 025X and/or 0636 with a provider-administered pharmaceutical HCPCS J-code or Q-code as listed on the provider-administered pharmaceuticals fee schedule as published on the department's web site, <http://medicaid.ohio.gov/>, will be paid in accordance with paragraph (E) of rule 5160-4-12 of the Administrative Code, at the rate in effect on the date of service. If a HCPCS J-code or Q-code is listed on the provider administered pharmaceuticals fee schedule as "by report," the line will be multiplied by sixty per cent of the hospital's specific medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratio. The medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratio is described in paragraph (B)(2) of rule 5160-2-22 of the Administrative Code. NDCs may be reported on all pharmaceutical line items.
- (f) Additional payments may be made for pregnancy-related services in accordance with paragraph (K) of this rule.

(H) Emergency room visit claims.

(1) Emergency room visit billing requirements.

- (a) A claim is identified as an "emergency room visit claim" if it carries one of the emergency room visit codes listed in appendix E to this rule and does not include dialysis, chemotherapy, surgical, or clinic services as described in paragraphs (D), (E), (F), and (G) of this rule.
- (b) More than one emergency room visit per beneficiary, per provider, per day is permissible and reimbursable if the patient visits the emergency room, leaves the hospital, and subsequently returns to the emergency room on the same date of service.
- (c) If the service provided is greater than that usually required for the emergency room procedure because the procedure involved stabilizing a patient in a life-threatening condition prior to transferring the patient to another hospital or if the patient died in the emergency room following treatment or resuscitation efforts, the emergency room procedure code should be modified by the CPT modifier -22. This modifier is not to be used when the hospital does not provide active treatment for the patient (for example, when a patient does not require stabilization prior to transfer or when a patient dies prior to treatment or resuscitation efforts being made).

(2) Emergency room claim payment.

Payments for emergency room procedure codes with CPT modifier -22 will be made by multiplying claim charges, except for charges for radiology, pregnancy-related services, and laboratory services, by the hospital's specific medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratio. The medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratio is described in paragraph (B)(2) of rule 5160-2-22 of the Administrative Code. Radiology services reported on those claims will be paid in accordance with paragraph (I) of this rule; laboratory and pregnancy-related service line items will be paid in accordance with paragraph (K) of this rule.

Payment for other emergency room visits will be made in accordance with the fee schedule listed in appendix E to this rule.

Payments for emergency room visits represent payment-in-full except for additional payments which may be made for services described in paragraphs (H)(2)(a) to (H)(2)(e) of this rule.

- (a) Additional payments may be made for ancillary services in accordance with paragraph (J) of this rule.
- (b) Additional payments may be made for laboratory services in accordance with paragraph (K) of this rule.
- (c) Additional payments may be made for radiology services in accordance with paragraph (I) of this rule.
- (d) For dates of service on or after January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2015: Additional payments will be made for charges listed in line items that carry revenue center code 025X (with no CPT code present) and/or revenue center code 0636 (with a valid HCPCS J-code) when the claim carries IV therapy CPT code 96365, 96366, 96367, or 96368. These additional payments will be calculated by multiplying those charges listed in those line items that carry revenue center code 025X (with no CPT code present) and/or revenue center code 0636 (with a valid HCPCS J-code) by sixty per cent of the hospital's specific medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratio. The medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratio is described in paragraph (B)(2) of rule 5160-2-22 of the Administrative Code.

For dates of service on or after January 1, 2016: Additional payments will be made for charges listed in line items that carry revenue center code 025X and/or revenue center code 0636 with a provider-administered pharmaceutical HCPCS J-code or a select Q-code (as listed in appendix I of this rule) when the claim carries IV therapy CPT code 96365, 96366, 96367, or 96368. These additional payments will be calculated as follows:

- (i) Charges listed in line items that carry revenue center code 025X without a provider-administered pharmaceutical HCPCS J-code or Q-code when an applicable J-code or Q-code does not exist for the provider-administered pharmaceutical for the date of service will be multiplied by sixty per cent of the hospital's specific medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratio. The medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratio is described in paragraph (B)(2) of rule 5160-2-22 of the Administrative Code. NDCs may be reported on all pharmaceutical line items.
- (ii) Line items that carry revenue center code 025X and/or 0636 with a provider-administered pharmaceutical HCPCS J-code or Q-code as listed on the provider-administered pharmaceuticals fee

schedule will be paid in accordance with paragraph (E) of rule 5160-4-12 of the Administrative Code, at the rate in effect on the date of service. If a HCPCS J-code or Q-code is listed on the provider administered pharmaceuticals fee schedule as "by report," the line will be multiplied by sixty per cent of the hospital's specific medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratio. The medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratio is described in paragraph (B)(2) of rule 5160-2-22 of the Administrative Code. NDCs may be reported on all pharmaceutical line items.

- (e) Additional payments may be made for pregnancy-related services in accordance with paragraph (K) of this rule.

(I) Radiology services.

Payments for radiology services will be made in accordance with the fee schedule listed in appendix G to this rule. Reimbursement for outpatient hospital radiology services shall be the lower of charges or the payment amounts in the outpatient hospital radiology fee schedule as published in appendix G to this rule.

- (1) Additional payments may be made for ancillary services in accordance with paragraph (J) of this rule.
- (2) Additional payments may be made for laboratory services in accordance with paragraph (K) of this rule.

(J) Ancillary services.

As of October 1, 1994, designated free vaccines, as listed in rule 5160-4-12 of the Administrative Code, shall include all immunizations covered under the federal "Vaccines for Children" (VFC) program. All designated free vaccines and nondesignated vaccines shall be administered in accordance with the requirements described in rule 5160-4-12 of the Administrative Code.

Payments for ancillary services, including designated free vaccines and nondesignated vaccines, listed in appendix F to this rule, will be made in accordance with appendix F to this rule if the listed codes appear on a claim that does not include chemotherapy, surgery services, or emergency room procedure codes with CPT modifier -22 as described in paragraphs (E), (F), and (H)(1) of this rule. Reimbursement for all immunizations covered under the VFC program will be ten dollars for individuals eighteen years of age or younger.

CPT codes 92004 and 92014 for comprehensive vision exams are covered for eligible medicaid beneficiaries, and must be billed with HCPCS modifier -UB, as

listed in appendix A to this rule, to indicate medicaid beneficiaries who are age twenty or younger or sixty or older. Comprehensive vision examinations are subject to the limitations defined in rule 5160-6-04 of the Administrative Code.

Payments for ancillary services will be made in accordance with appendix F to this rule.

- (1) Additional payments may be made for laboratory services in accordance with paragraph (K) of this rule.
- (2) Additional payments may be made for radiology services in accordance with paragraph (I) of this rule.
- (3) For dates of service on or after January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2015: Additional payments will be made for charges listed in line items that carry revenue center code 025X (with no CPT code present) and/or revenue center code 0636 (with a valid HCPCS J-code) when the claim carries IV therapy CPT code 96365, 96366, 96367, or 96368. These additional payments will be calculated by multiplying those charges listed in those line items that carry revenue center code 025X (with no CPT code present) and/or revenue center code 0636 (with a valid HCPCS J-code) by sixty per cent of the hospital's specific medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratio. The medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratio is described in paragraph (B)(2) of rule 5160-2-22 of the Administrative Code.

For dates of service on or after January 1, 2016: Additional payments will be made for charges listed in line items that carry revenue center code 025X and/or revenue center code 0636 with a provider-administered pharmaceutical HCPCS J-code or a select Q-code (as listed in appendix I to this rule) when the claim carries IV therapy CPT code 96365, 96366, 96367, or 96368. These additional payments will be calculated as follows:

- (a) Charges listed in line items that carry revenue center code 025X without a provider-administered pharmaceutical HCPCS J-code or Q-code when an applicable J-code or Q-code does not exist for the provider-administered pharmaceutical for the date of service will be multiplied by sixty per cent of the hospital's specific medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratio. The medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratio is described in paragraph (B)(2) of rule 5160-2-22 of the Administrative Code. NDCs may be reported on all pharmaceutical line items.
- (b) Line items that carry revenue center code 025X and/or 0636 with a

provider-administered pharmaceutical HCPCS J-code or Q-code as listed on the provider-administered pharmaceuticals fee schedule will be paid in accordance with paragraph (E) of rule 5160-4-12 of the Administrative Code, at the rate in effect on the date of service. If a HCPCS J-code or Q-code is listed on the provider administered pharmaceuticals fee schedule as "by report," the line will be multiplied by sixty per cent of the hospital's specific medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratio. The medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratio is described in paragraph (B)(2) of rule 5160-2-22 of the Administrative Code. NDCs may be reported on all pharmaceutical line items.

(4) Additional payments may be made for pregnancy-related services in accordance with paragraph (K) of this rule.

(K) Laboratory and pregnancy-related services.

For dates of service through December 31, 2015: Payments for laboratory services will be made in accordance with the fee schedule listed in appendix H to this rule. Reimbursement for outpatient hospital laboratory services shall be the lower of charges or the payment amounts in the outpatient hospital laboratory fee schedule.

For dates of service on or after January 1, 2016: Payments for laboratory services will be made in accordance with appendix DD to rule 5160-1-60 of the Administrative Code. Reimbursement for outpatient hospital laboratory services shall be the lower of charges or the payment amounts in appendix DD to rule 5160-1-60 of the Administrative Code.

For dates of service on or after October 1, 2016: Payments for laboratory services will be made in accordance with rule 5160-11-09 of the Administrative Code. Reimbursement for outpatient hospital laboratory services shall be the lower of charges or the payment amounts that reflect the policy set forth in rule 5160-11-09 of the Administrative Code.

Payments for pregnancy-related services will be made in accordance with the fee schedules listed in appendices D and F to this rule. When billing for pregnancy-related services, bill the appropriate codes as identified in appendix D and/or F to this rule, with modifier -TH to indicate that obstetrical services, prenatal or post-partum, were provided.

(L) Independently billed services:

Claims submitted without dialysis, chemotherapy, surgical, clinic, emergency room, radiology, ancillary, laboratory, or pregnancy-related services as defined in paragraphs (D) to (K) of this rule will be considered independently billed.

(1) Pharmacy.

For dates of service on or after January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2015: Claims submitted with line items that carry revenue center codes 025X (with no CPT code present) and/or 0636 (with a valid HCPCS J-code) will be paid at sixty per cent of the hospital's specific medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratio. The medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratio is described in paragraph (B)(2) of rule 5160-2-22 of the Administrative Code.

For dates of service on or after January 1, 2016: Claims submitted with line items that carry revenue center code 025X and/or revenue center code 0636 with a provider-administered pharmaceutical HCPCS J-code or a select Q-code (as listed in appendix I to this rule) will be paid in accordance with paragraphs (L)(1)(a) and (L)(1)(b) of this rule.

(a) Charges listed in line items that carry revenue center code 025X without a provider-administered pharmaceutical HCPCS J-code or Q-code when an applicable J-code or Q-code does not exist for the provider-administered pharmaceutical for the date of service will be multiplied by sixty per cent of the hospital's specific medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratio. The medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratio is described in paragraph (B)(2) of rule 5160-2-22 of the Administrative Code. NDCs may be reported on all pharmaceutical line items.

(b) Line items that carry revenue center code 025X and/or 0636 with a provider-administered pharmaceutical HCPCS J-code or Q-code as listed on the provider-administered pharmaceuticals fee schedule will be paid in accordance with paragraph (E) of rule 5160-4-12 of the Administrative Code, at the rate in effect on the date of service. If a HCPCS J-code or Q-code is listed on the provider administered pharmaceuticals fee schedule as "by report," the line will be multiplied by sixty per cent of the hospital's specific medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratio. The medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratio is described in paragraph (B)(2) of rule 5160-2-22 of the Administrative Code. NDCs may be reported on all pharmaceutical line items.

(2) Medical supply.

For dates of service on or after January 1, 2014: Claims submitted with line items that carry revenue center codes 027X (with no CPT code present) will be paid at sixty per cent of the hospital's specific medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratio. The medicaid outpatient cost-to-charge ratio is described in paragraph (B)(2) of rule 5160-2-22 of the Administrative Code.

(M) Observation services.

Payments for observation services will be made in accordance with appendix F to this rule. Payments for observation services will be made for up to two consecutive days only. To receive payment for a third consecutive date of service, the patient must have been discharged, and, for medically necessary reasons, readmitted as an outpatient.

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