OPERATION FOR ADMISSION OR VISIT CODE 7 *

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JULY 26, 2010        HOSP-2010-007 (C)

TO:                  (1) CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
                     (2) DIRECTOR/MANAGER OF PATIENT ACCOUNTS
                     (3) BILLING OFFICE STAFF

FROM:        HIGHMARK INSTITUTIONAL PROVIDER RELATIONS

SUBJECT:      POINT OF ORIGIN FOR ADMISSION OR VISIT CODE 7


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PURPOSE

This bulletin clarifies for facility providers the recent change in usage related to Point of Origin for Admission or Visit Code 7, Emergency Room.

BACKGROUND/OVERVIEW

The National Uniform Billing Committee (NUBC) approved the discontinuation of Point of Origin Code 7 (Emergency Room) on electronic claims because the intent of this data element is to report the location from which the patient came before presenting to the health care facility. The emergency room is considered a part of the health care facility, and therefore Emergency Room is not a valid value for that data element.

The NUBC approved the discontinuation of Point of Origin Code 7 on electronic claims for all discharges on and after July 1, 2010. Highmark implemented the termination of Point of Origin Code 7 effective for claims processed on and after July 1, 2010. Because of the resulting timing conflict, some providers experienced claim rejections in error.

IMPACT/ACTION

In order to accommodate the resubmission of such rejected claims, Highmark has made a temporary
modification to its system to again accept Point of Origin Code 7, for discharges through June 30, 2010. Providers are welcome to resubmit the rejected claims for consideration.

Providers that have not already done so should begin immediately to take whatever steps are necessary to report valid values in the Point of Origin for Admission or Visit data element and to cease reporting Code 7 in this field. As a reminder, providers should instead report the location from which the patient came before presenting to the facility (noting that “the facility” includes its Emergency Room or Emergency Department).

For those facilities that submit their claims via NaviNet®, Point of Origin Code 7 has been eliminated from the drop-down menu of available values for the Point of Origin field.

Staying Abreast of Changes in Code and Claim Submission Requirements

Providers are reminded of the ongoing importance of access to the national UB Data Specifications Manual for staying abreast of changes in code and claim submission requirements. If your facility does not already have a subscription to this online tool, you may wish to visit the NUBC Web site at www.nubc.org/become.html to subscribe.

TIME FRAME

The information in this bulletin is current.

ASSISTANCE

This Bulletin

Questions regarding this bulletin may be directed to the appropriate Facility Customer Service Unit, based upon the product under which the member has coverage:

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<th>For members with coverage under…</th>
<th>Contact Facility Customer Service at…</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FreedomBlue PPO</td>
<td>1-866-588-6967</td>
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<tr>
<td>FreedomBlue PFFS</td>
<td>1-866-675-8635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial products</td>
<td>1-866-803-3708</td>
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</tbody>
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Inquiries about Eligibility, Benefits, Claim Status or Authorizations

For inquiries about eligibility, benefits, claim status or authorizations, Highmark encourages providers to use the electronic resources available to them – NaviNet and the applicable HIPAA transactions – prior to placing a telephone call to Facility Customer Service.

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