



February 2021

BCBSM HIGHLIGHT MEDICAL, BENEFIT POLICY CHANGES

You'll find the latest information about procedure codes and BCBSM billing guidelines in the updated chart. Go here for details:

https://www.bcbsm.com/content/dam/microsites/corpcomm/provider/the_record/2021/feb/Record_0221f.shtml

HHS EXTENDS COVID – 19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY DECLARATION UNTIL APRIL

The declaration of the PHE was set to expire on January 21, 2021, but the Dept. of Health and Human Services has extended the declaration for a 4th time and extends to April 2021. The impact of this move has been felt by medical providers due to the ability to bill Medicare for telehealth services, including audio only services.

MEDICARE ANNUAL PART B DEDUCTIBLE

The Medicare Part B annual deductible is \$203.00. This applies only to patients with direct Medicare. Providers are tempted to hold Medicare claims so that their claims do not get applied to the deductible. Please remember that many patients have a secondary insurance that will pay the deductible. Also, note that your patients who have chosen a Medicare Advantage plan, not only may not have a deductible, their plan may have a much shorter window in which to submit claims. That's why PPR always advises our providers to verify benefits and not to hold claims.

BCBSM COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION FOR PROVIDERS

Here is what BCBSM wants providers to know about vaccine coverage, administration, priorities and availability. To find out, go here:

<https://www.bcbsm.com/content/dam/public/shared/documents/coronavirus/provider/covid-19-vaccine-info-providers.pdf>

And remember, we're here to help you. Don't hesitate to call at any time for any reason.