

Business Dynamics Limited

The Leaders in Spine Reimbursement
Ruling Advisory

Provisions Set for Blue Cross Blue Shield Settlement

The Blue Cross Blue Shield settlement that was agreed upon in April 2007 began to have several provisions drawn out over the past few weeks. The lawsuit, brought against Blue Cross Blue Shield on behalf of nearly 900,000 physicians (as well as several state and national medical societies around the country), alleged a calculated scheme to defraud physicians.

While the provisions may differ from state to state, a few of the general requirements are as follows:

- Blue Cross Blue Shield may not retroactively retract pre-certified medically necessary determinations;
- Blue Parties must pay for newly recommended vaccines and must reimburse for recommended vaccines and injectibles, as well as for the administration of the aforementioned;
- Overpayment recovery efforts may not be initiated more than 18 months after the original payment was made;
- Check or electronic funds transfers must be made within 30 calendar days for claims. 8% interest will be placed on delayed claims as a penalty;
- Supervision and interpretation CPT codes are separately identifiable and are eligible for payment;
- No global period for surgical procedures will be longer than the period designated by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS);
- “Add-on” codes, as designated by CPT, will be recognized and eligible for payment as separate codes and shall not be subject to the multiple procedure reduction logic or rule.

For more specific information on these provisions, and the complete listing, please visit www.hmosettlements.com, or contact Business Dynamics Limited at (516) 294-4118.

Business Dynamics Limited is pleased to provide this advisory as general information to assist Spine Specialty Practices in maintaining compliance, while maximizing reimbursement. Please consult your regional carrier guidelines, for specific advice on individual claims issues, or call our Coding Hotline @ 1-516-294-4118.

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