

April 30, 2024

PROVIDER ALERT: HOSPITAL 30 DAY READMISSION POLICY

Effective June 1, 2024, MedStar Family Choice District of Columbia will no longer allow separate reimbursement for certain hospital readmissions occurring within 30 days of the initial admission.

For purposes of this policy, a hospital readmission is defined as:

*An unexpected readmission to the same hospital (or hospital affiliates in the same network) occurring within **30 days** of discharge from a previous inpatient stay for the same, similar, or related condition.*

Hospital readmissions falling into the above category will be combined with the initial admission when calculating the applicable reimbursement amount. **Note: Medstar Family Choice District of Columbia reserves the right to recoup identified overpayments resulting from this policy.**

Readmissions within 30 days are considered inappropriate and/or preventable if they meet one of the following criteria:

- Readmission to the same hospital (including hospital affiliates) for the same or similar diagnosis/complaint.
- Readmission due to premature discharge from same hospital (including hospital affiliates).
- Readmission due to inadequate discharge planning.
- Readmission due to failure of proper coordination between inpatient and outpatient health care teams.
- Readmission due to complications and/or infections related to the initial admission.
- Readmission due to symptoms that were present during the previous admission and got worse.
- Readmission due to Hospital Acquired Conditions (HACs).

Readmissions falling into one of the following categories will be **excluded** from this policy:

- Subsequent admission was to a different non-affiliated hospital.
- Subsequent admission was to an out-of-network hospital.
- Subsequent admission was to a Maryland hospital.
- Readmission was for treatment of cancer, sickle cell, burns or transplant.
- Readmission was planned.



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- Readmission was due to Enrollee leaving against medical advice (AMA).
- Readmission was due to Enrollee being non-compliant with discharge plan.
- Readmission was to a skilled nursing facility, long-term acute facility, or inpatient rehabilitation facility.
- Obstetrical readmission.
- Enrollee is less than one year old.
- Readmission was greater than 30 days from the first admission.
- Readmission was not medically necessary.

For questions concerning this Provider Alert, please contact the MedStar Family Choice District of Columbia Provider Customer Service Department, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Phone: **800-261-3371**

Email: mfcdc-providerrelations@medstar.net

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