

## Guidelines for PHP and PAD Hospital Readmissions

The following guidelines explain the correct billing procedures and authorization requirements for Passport Health Plan (PHP) and Passport Advantage (PAD) hospital readmissions.

### PASSPORT HEALTH PLAN (PHP) READMISSION GUIDELINES

#### **Readmission within 23 Hours**

If a PHP member is readmitted to the hospital within 23 hours of the previous discharge, the two stays may be combined and billed as one inpatient stay.

#### **Readmission after 24 Hours**

If a PHP member is readmitted to the hospital after 24 hours of the previous discharge, a new admission process begins and a new authorization number must be provided. In this case, the two stays must be billed separately.

### PASSPORT ADVANTAGE (PAD) READMISSION GUIDELINES

#### **Readmission for the Same or Related Diagnosis within 72 hours**

If a PAD member is readmitted to the hospital for the same or related diagnosis within 72 hours of the previous discharge, the two stays should be combined and billed as one inpatient stay by filing a single corrected claim.

The corrected claim should represent the combined stay by containing admission and discharge dates reflecting the initial admission and the final discharge. The corrected claim should also include a leave of absence indicator by placing patient discharge status code 30 in form locator 17 (Patient Discharge Status).

#### **Readmission for an Unrelated Diagnosis within 72 hours**

If a PAD member is readmitted to the hospital for a diagnosis unrelated to the previous diagnosis, but within 72 hours of the previous discharge, a second and separate claim must be filed and a new authorization number must be obtained.

The second claim should include a condition code of B4 in form locator 17 (Patient Discharge Status), to indicate the two stays are medically unrelated.

#### **Readmission after 72 Hours**

If a PAD member is readmitted to the hospital after 72 hours of the previous discharge, a new admission process begins and a new authorization number must be obtained. In this case, the two stays must be billed separately.