

May 10, 2022

RE: Billing and Reimbursement Change for Certain Skilled Nursing Facility Claims

Dear Provider,

As published in the Winter 2021 Dean Health Plan Provider News, effective January 1, 2022, Wisconsin Medicaid is using Health Insurance Prospective Payment System (HIPPS) codes for reimbursement of Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) claims. This means that reimbursement of SNF claims is no longer based on a provider's established per diem rate with Wisconsin Medicaid but on the HIPPS acuity-based payment system. This change will affect SNF claims for members enrolled in DeanCare Gold (Cost) or Dean Select who do not have a qualifying three-day inpatient hospital stay and/or have exhausted their SNF benefit under Medicare. Under these situations, Dean Health Plan follows the State of Wisconsin 30-day SNF mandate, which uses Wisconsin Medicaid rates to determine payment.

In adherence to the Wisconsin Medicaid policy, providers are required to use the appropriate five-digit HIPPS code, based on their assessment of a patient's acuity, with a corresponding revenue code on applicable SNF claims submitted to Dean Health Plan. Because the HIPPS code replaces the Wisconsin Medicaid reimbursement rate established for each provider, reimbursement is determined by the provider-indicated HIPPS code on the claim. Claims submitted without a HIPPS code or with an invalid HIPPS code will be denied.

These services continue to require prior authorization approval through Dean Health Plan's Utilization Management Department.

Changes to reimbursement policies or processes should not affect a provider's criteria for inpatient admissions or the HIPPS codes indicated on the claim, which should accurately represent the patient's acuity. To review the specific Wisconsin Medicaid billing and policy criteria, providers are encouraged to read the online *ForwardHealth Update* (2021-22).

Please see the following to access the online resources referenced in this letter:

- Winter 2021 Dean Health Plan Provider News (page 3) at deancare.com/providers/news
- Wisconsin Medicaid policy at forwardhealth.wi.gov/kw/pdf/2021-22.pdf
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Definition and Uses of HIPPS Codes at cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/ProspMedicareFeeSvcPmtGen/Downloads/hippsuses.pdf

Please contact the Customer Care Center at 800-279-1301 if you have any questions.

Thank you!

Dean Health Plan

