PREMERA | BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF ALASKA

Premera Provider News Flash

Nov. 15, 2012

Two New Hospital-Acquired Conditions Added

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently made changes to their specific, quality-adjusted list of Hospital-Acquired Conditions (HACs). The changes include the addition of two new HACs and two new diagnoses, effective Oct. 1, 2012.

When our Serious Adverse Event payment policy was established in Jan. 2010, Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska elected to mirror the CMS list of events and the ICD-9-CM codes used to identify these events. We believe that maintaining consistency with CMS helps ease administration for providers.

The new conditions identified by CMS met their criteria by being conditions that:

- are high cost, high volume, or both;
- are assigned to a higher paying MS-DRG when present as a secondary diagnosis; and
- could have been reasonably prevented through the application of evidence-based guidelines.

The two new HACs are:

- Iatrogenic Pneumothorax with Venous Catheterization
- Surgical Site Infection Following Cardiac Implantable Electronic Device (CIED) Procedures

The two additional ICD-9-CM codes added to the Vascular Catheter-Associated Infection HACs are:

- Bloodstream infection due to central venous catheter
- Local infection due to central venous catheter

View a complete list of the HACs and codes.

For More Information

Read more about our Serious Adverse Event Policy in the August 2009 and October 2009 issues of *Network News*. If you have any questions, call Physician and Provider Relations, 800-722-4714, option 4.