

Special Bulletin

For professional providers

November 1, 2022

Reimbursement Update: Daily Maximum to Increase for Therapy Services

Attention: Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Chiropractic Providers

In September 2022, Highmark modified the way it reimburses Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, and Chiropractors for evaluations, therapy, modalities, and manipulations.

Based on feedback we received from the market, Highmark has decided to increase the Daily Dollar Maximum for Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, and Chiropractors.

What This Means To You

While the fee schedule will still be applied on all services, claims will only pay up to (and not exceed) the Daily Dollar Maximum for the rendering provider specialty. There will still be one Daily Dollar Maximum applied on days in which evaluation services are delivered (with or without therapy services), while a different Daily Dollar Maximum will be applied on days in which only therapy services were delivered.

The changes to the Daily Dollar Maximums, however, represent material increases compared to the first iteration of established maximums.

	Medicare Advantage	Commercial
Physical Therapy (Evaluation Day)	\$145.00	\$145.00
Occupational Therapy (Evaluation Day)	\$145.00	\$145.00
Chiropractic Therapy (Evaluation Day)	\$38.00	\$130.00

Physical Therapy (Therapy Only)	\$115.00	\$115.00
Occupational Therapy (Therapy Only)	\$115.00	\$115.00
Chiropractic Services (Therapy Only)	\$38.00	\$80.00

Please note that, while the Daily Dollar Maximum will include all therapy, manipulations, modalities, and diagnostic X-ray services, the maximums will not include Durable Medical Equipment items, such as splints or braces. Instead, these items will continue to be reimbursed separately outside of any Daily Dollar Maximum.

Next Steps

While Highmark will be increasing the Daily Dollar Maximums **effective immediately**, we will also be reviewing previously submitted claims for those providers who executed contracts to adopt the new methodology. Adjustments will be performed to make additional payment, where applicable. The new Daily Dollar Maximums will be effective through **December 31, 2023**.

For updated Daily Dollar Maximums, or for additional information around the changes, please refer to the **Frequently Asked Questions** located on the Provider Resource Center, which can be accessed via NaviNet®.

To view the FAQs, choose Resource Center from the left menu in NaviNet. Once you are redirected to the Provider Resource Center, click on **CLAIMS, PAYMENT & REIMBURSEMENT** from the left sidebar, then select **Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy And Chiropractic Daily Bundle Maximum**. Once there, click on **Frequently Asked Questions**.

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Effective September 1, 2022, Highmark will modify the way it reimburses physical therapists, occupational therapists, and chiropractors for evaluations, therapy, modalities, and manipulations.

In keeping our commitment to making health care accessible and affordable to our members, Highmark recognizes the need to promote cost transparency. To that end, Highmark will be introducing a bundled daily rate for physical therapy, occupational therapy, and chiropractic services.

The new reimbursement methodology will better enable you and our members to know the cost of their treatment in advance, which will result in:

- Greater revenue predictability
- Increased ability to accurately collect member cost share at the time of service
- Improved overall member experience

LEARN MORE:

- Frequently Asked Questions
- Highmark To Introduce Therapy Bundles

Last updated on 8/1/2022 10:02:08 AM

Any other questions about the changes should be sent to:
AncillaryProviderContractAdministration@Highmark.com.

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