

April fee updates will not reflect the annual CMS fee changes

 pages.azblue.com/Annual-fee-schedule-updates-delayed-until-May---FEB-2021.html

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This year, our annual review will require more time because of CMS fee schedule modifications made in late December in response to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021. As a result of this delay, our April updates will be limited to the usual quarterly updates. The more substantial annual updates will most likely be available in May. As usual, we will notify you through the newsletter when the annual fee updates will be available for preview.

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Preview upcoming quarterly fee changes beginning March 1

Our next fee update will be effective April 1, 2021. You can preview these updates on the secure provider portal starting March 1, 2021.

Blue Cross[®] Blue Shield[®] of Arizona (BCBSAZ) fee schedules are based on a number of pricing sources that can influence the need for changes. These include Medicare fee schedules, information derived from claims, competitive pricing data, and feedback from BCBSAZ network providers. Our fee updates reflect generally applicable market changes, such as CMS code changes, pricing for newly available drugs, fluctuations in prices for listed drugs, other market shifts, correction of over- or under-valued fees, and modifications based on ongoing utilization analysis.

For your convenience, we have formatted the fee updates spreadsheets to include a sort filter on each column and an added column displaying the percentage of change in the total fee.

To access the updates, log in to azblue.com/providers and go to “Provider Resources > Guidelines > Claim Pricing.” Select one of the “Fee Updates” links: ASC, Outpatient, Professional, Unclassified Drug, or Per Diem Base Rates.

Access our code edit information and the C3 transparency tool

Periodic code edit updates might include the addition of new CDT/CPT®/HCPCS procedure codes, BCBSAZ code edit guideline updates, quarterly Correct Coding Initiative (CCI) releases, or other code edit changes. These updates could impact certain professional and outpatient claims.

For information about our specific code edit rules, check out the current code edit guidelines PDF to see effective dates for rules that were recently or will soon be applied. To better understand how our code edits (including recent updates) are likely to impact your claims, use the online Clear Claim Connection™ (C3) code edit transparency tool. The tool displays current BCBSAZ payment policies, related rules, code edit clarifications, and source information.

Access our code edit guidelines and the C3 tool on the secure portal at azblue.com/providers: “Provider Resources > Guidelines > Claim Coding > Code Edit Guidelines and C3 Tool.” Revisions are posted as needed.

If you have questions regarding fee schedules or code edits, contact your [provider liaison](#) or call Provider Partnerships at 602-864-4231 or 1-800-232-2345, ext. 4231.

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