

New billing requirements for inpatient visits effective November 1

 pages.azblue.com/November-1-How-to-bill-for-inpatient-encounters---OCT-2022.html

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We are updating Blue Cross® Blue Shield® of Arizona (BCBSAZ) billing requirements for inpatient encounters. The revised guidelines will take effect for service dates starting November 1, 2022.

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[Red Ribbon Week October 23-31](#) and

[Drug Take Back Day October 29:](#)
Take action to reduce drug misuse

Origin of this update

The revised Inpatient Hospital Care pricing policy (for plans other than Medicare Advantage) aligns with the following AMA/CPT® guidelines:

CPTs 99221-99223: *These initial hospital inpatient service codes describe the first encounter with the patient by the admitting physician.*

Note: For initial encounters by a physician other than the admitting physician, use the inpatient consultation codes (99251-99255) or subsequent inpatient care codes (99231-99233).

How to bill for service dates starting November 1, 2022

Please work with your billing staff to be sure your billing system is set up with the following guidelines:

Admitting physician of record: Use codes 99221-99223 (for first inpatient encounter) or 99231-99233 (for subsequent inpatient encounters).

Physicians other than the admitting physician: Use consultation codes 99251-99255 (for first inpatient encounter) or 99231-99233 (for subsequent inpatient encounters).

If you have questions about this update, contact your provider liaison. For more information about inpatient visit codes, refer to your AMA/CPT book or digital coding tools.

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