



STATE BOARD OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION

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April 4, 2014

The State Board of Workers' Compensation will adopt ICD-10-CM/PCS for diagnosis and procedure coding to coincide with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) implementation date. Because of this transition, there have been a number of significant changes to the fee schedule. Therefore, this year's Georgia Workers' Compensation Medical Fee Schedule's effective date will be May 1, 2014. Please disregard the effective date of April 1, 2014 printed on the binder cover of the fee schedule.

The most significant changes are the new guidelines regarding outpatient hospital and ambulatory surgical center (ASC) reimbursement which includes the adoption of the Medicare reimbursement model as contained in the Code of Federal Regulations. The maximum allowable reimbursement (MAR) amounts will be based upon the Ambulatory Payment Classifications (APC). The APC group will be found in the Physician Schedule under the column "APC." The MAR for outpatient services in a hospital or ASC will be found in the Physician Schedule under the column "OP MAR." Some HCPCS Level II codes will also be introduced for payment in this section.

It should be noted that there are additional guidelines found in Section XV. This includes instructions regarding emergency departments, hospital clinics, hospital urgent care, status indicators, payment indicators, supplies, outliers, implants, durable medical equipment, and physical medicine. In addition, ASCs will be required to obtain and maintain Medicare certification.

CMS has also implemented a revised CMS 1500 billing form, version 2/12, which the Board will also adopt, with a grace period to be determined.

In the interim, please continue to refer to the April 1, 2013 Georgia Workers' Compensation Medical Fee Schedule for billing and reimbursement guidelines.