

## Hospital readmission within 30 days

This provider bulletin is an update regarding information in the *Medicaid Business Provider Manual* for UniCare Health Plan of West Virginia, Inc. (UniCare). For access to the latest manual, visit [www.unicare.com](http://www.unicare.com).

UniCare appreciates the compassion and dedication with which you care for our members — your patients. We believe that strong collaboration and partnership with our providers plays an integral role in the provision of high quality care. In keeping with this goal, we encourage you to review the following information. This policy only affects facilities reimbursed for inpatient services by a diagnosis related group (DRG) methodology.

Effective March 4, 2020, all clinically related or potentially preventable readmissions occurring within a 30-day period will be subject to review. UniCare will utilize clinical criteria and/or licensed clinical medical review for readmissions within a 30-day period in order to determine if the second admission is for:

- The same or closely related condition, or procedure as the prior discharge
- An infection or other complication of care.
- A condition or procedure indicative of a failed surgical intervention.
- An acute decompensation of a coexisting chronic disease.
- A need that could have reasonably been prevented by the provision of appropriate care consistent with accepted standards in the prior discharge or during the post-discharge follow-up period.
- An issue caused by a premature discharge from the same facility.
- A reason that is medically unnecessary.

Exclusions for the second admission within a 30-day period would include:

- Admissions for the medical treatment of cancer, primary psychiatric disease and rehabilitation care.
- Planned readmissions.
- Patient transfers from one acute care hospital to another.
- Patient discharge from the hospital against medical advice.

During the precertification process the hospital is notified that the second admission may be denied for same or similar DRG. The hospital is given an opportunity to provide additional clinical showing that the second admission is not a same or similar DRG admission.

### What if I need assistance?

If you have questions about this communication, received it in error or need assistance with any other item, contact our Customer Care Center at **1-800-782-0095**.