



## CLINICAL PAYMENT, CODING AND POLICY CHANGES

### NEW POLICY UPDATES – EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2021

We regularly augment our clinical, payment and coding policy positions as part of our ongoing policy review processes. In an effort to keep our providers informed, please see the chart of upcoming new policies below.

**The changes below are effective for dates of service beginning April 1, 2021:**

**Anesthesia Policy – Monitored Anesthesia-**

Monitored anesthesia care involves the intra-operative monitoring by a physician or qualified individual under the medical direction of a physician or of the patient’s vital physiological signs in anticipation of the need for administration of general anesthesia or of the development of adverse physiological patient reaction to the surgical procedure.

As this level of anesthesia requires intense monitoring, use of monitored anesthesia care should only be performed when the surgical procedure or patient’s clinical status indicates that a deeper level of anesthesia is required. Monitored anesthesia care must be reported with a diagnosis that supports medical necessity for the procedure, per our policy, which is based on Pennsylvania Medicaid guidelines.

**Laboratory-Pathology Policy-Helicobacter Pylori Infection Testing-**

Per our policy, which is based on Pennsylvania Medicaid guidelines, helicobacter pylori serology testing/antibiotic resistance testing are considered a non-covered service since the testing cannot identify the difference between an active and a past infection.

**Laboratory-Pathology Policy-Folate Testing-Frequency-**

Per our policy, which is based on Pennsylvania Medicaid guidelines, folate testing should not be performed more than once per year unless the patient has a diagnosis of deficiency disorder or malabsorption syndrome.

**Laboratory-Pathology Policy-Vitamin B-12 Testing-Frequency-**

Per our policy, which is based on Pennsylvania Medicaid guidelines, Vitamin B-12 testing should not be performed more than once a year unless the patient has a diagnosis of deficiency disorder or malabsorption syndrome.

### Questions?

Just call Provider Relations at 1-866-638-1232 for assistance.