



**PROVIDER BULLETIN**  
#09-2016

**TO:** Participating hospitals  
**FROM:** Daniel Brown  
Director, Provider Reimbursement  
**DATE:** April 28, 2016  
**SUBJECT:** Reimbursement of emergency room services

As previously communicated, reimbursement rates for emergency room/department (ER) services are inclusive of services provided to an Independence Blue Cross member during the visit. This reimbursement includes the professional components of laboratory and radiology for all managed care benefit programs. Therefore, there is no separate or additional reimbursement for these services.

**ER services when billed with surgical services**

If an ER visit includes surgery performed in a fully equipped and staffed operating room, the facility will receive fee schedule reimbursement for the ER visit and the surgery. In this circumstance, the surgery should be billed using an appropriate surgery revenue code with the applicable HCPCS/CPT<sup>®</sup> code.

When surgical services are performed in the ER and *not* a fully equipped operating room, the surgical services are included in the reimbursement for the ER visit. In this circumstance, the surgery should be billed using an appropriate ER revenue code with the applicable HCPCS/CPT code.

Services billed together	Services reimbursed*	Revenue code requirements
Surgical services performed in the operating room and emergency services performed in the ER	Both ER services and surgical services are reimbursed	Surgical services reported with 36x, 481, 49x, or 790; ER services reported with 45x
Surgical services and emergency services performed in the ER	ER services are reimbursed	Surgical services reported with 45x; ER services reported with 45x

*\*Fee schedule reimbursement for these services includes all services provided during the visit, including the professional components of laboratory and radiology.*

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**We encourage you to share this information with appropriate members of your staff.**

## Learn more

Additional information regarding observation services in the ER can be found in the Billing & Reimbursement for Hospital Services section of the *Hospital Manual for Participating Hospitals, Ancillary Facilities, and Ancillary Providers*.

For more information regarding reimbursement for emergency room services, please review the following policies:

- **Commercial:** #00.10.03i: Criteria for Reimbursement of Emergency Room Services
- **Medicare Advantage:** #MA00.044a: Criteria for Reimbursement of Emergency Room Services

To view these policies, visit our Medical Policy Portal at [www.ibx.com/medpolicy](http://www.ibx.com/medpolicy). Select *Accept and Go to Medical Policy Online*, and then select the *Commercial* or *Medicare Advantage* tab from the top of the page, depending on the version of the policy you'd like to view. Then type the policy name or number in the Search field.

If you have any questions, please contact your Network Coordinator.