



## New Payment Policies affecting Drugs & Biological Agents

Over the past several years, Healthfirst has been implementing payment policies that reflect guidelines set forth by industry authorities. Our goal is to process claims consistently and in accordance with best practice standards. Beginning with claims processed on **May 1, 2015** we will be instituting additional payment policies for various injectable drugs and biological agents.

The new policies will enforce guidelines such as appropriate indications for use, dosing limits, and frequency of use. Please be sure to follow these guidelines once in effect to avoid claims denials.

- FDA-approved indications and off-label indications found in one or more of the references are covered when submitted with the appropriate diagnosis code(s).
- The primary source for the policy is the manufacturer's package insert (FDA approved indications). Other references include but are not limited to sources such as Elsevier Gold Standard's Clinical Pharmacology, Thomson MICROMEDEX® (DRUGDEX®, DrugPoints®), American Hospital Formulary System (AHFS) DI, National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Drugs & Biologics Compendium, and CMS Regional Local Carrier Determinations (LCDs)

The following elements will be considered in our Drug and Biological policies:

- The drug must be used for labeled or industry accepted off-labeled indications
- The dosage must be appropriate for the specific condition of the patient
- The frequency of administration must be appropriate for the diagnosis for which it is being used
- The drug must be appropriate for the age and gender of the patient to whom it is being administered
- The drug should not be given with other drugs that might cause an adverse reaction
- The drug should be administered by the appropriate route (i.e. injection, intravenous infusion, intralesional, intra-arterial, etc.)

### Important Notes

- This policy will begin for any claims processed on **May 1, 2015** and later.
- These policies will apply to professional and facility claims.
- There are no changes to any processes, including claims submission, customer service and support, or grievances and appeals.

At Healthfirst, our commitment to healthcare is stronger than ever. We thank you for participating in the Healthfirst network and are proud to be your partner in health.