

June 18, 2020

**Re: Blue Advantage Reimbursement Increase**

Dear Acute Care Facility:

Blue Advantage continues to make the necessary adjustments to help ease the administrative burden of our providers during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

**Effective for dates of service on or after April 1, 2020, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is temporarily allowing an additional 20% increase in reimbursement on inpatient acute care claims billed with the COVID-19 diagnosis code U07.1.**

Blue Advantage is applying the increase to claims that meet the criteria. Claims already received and processed by Blue Advantage that met the criteria are being adjusted appropriately and there is no need to refile claims. Patient-presenting diagnosis codes are excluded from the 20% increase in inpatient base allowable.

We will notify providers when this temporary increase is no longer effective. Additionally, we will continue to review CMS mandates and make updates as new developments occur.

**More Online**

For other Blue Advantage COVID-19-related billing information, visit the COVID-19 section of our Blue Advantage Resources page, where you can easily access our latest provider communications. Go to [www.BCBSLA.com/providers](http://www.BCBSLA.com/providers), then click on the "Go to BA Resources" link at the bottom of the page. We will continue to add updated information to this page as it develops.

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## Contact Us

For questions concerning this claims process, contact Blue Advantage Customer Service at 1-866-508-7145 or you may send an email to [customerservice@blueadvantage.bcbsla.com](mailto:customerservice@blueadvantage.bcbsla.com). Please put "BA Reimbursement Increase" in the subject line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hiral Arges". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'H' and 'A'.

Hiral Arges  
VP, Provider Relations and Contracting  
Network Administration  
HA/bp