



IMPORTANT BILLING NOTIFICATION

June 16, 2004

Dear AmeriHealth Mercy Health Plan Provider:

Due to the Department of Public Welfare's (DPW) recent transition to PROMISE, a HIPAA compliant system, all providers are required to submit anesthesia services using anesthesia (ASA) procedure codes.

Therefore, anesthesia service claims submitted to AmeriHealth Mercy with effective dates of service on or after July 1, 2004, will be processed using the following billing standards.

- Anesthesia claims must be submitted using anesthesia (ASA) procedure codes only (base plus time units);
- All services must be billed in minutes;
- 15 minute time increments will be used to determine payment;
- Anesthesia claims submitted with a surgical procedure code with or without an AA pricing modifier will be denied;
- Anesthesia claims associated with the following maternity care ASA codes should be billed in minutes but will be reimbursed at a specific rate according to the AmeriHealth Mercy fee schedule and adjusted to your specific contract specifications:

Anesthesia Procedure Code	Description	Rate
01960	Anesthesia for vaginal delivery only	\$153.36
01967	Neuraxial labor analgesia/anesthesia for planned vaginal delivery	\$153.36
01961	Anesthesia for cesarean delivery only	\$194.50
01968	Anesthesia for cesarean delivery following neuraxial labor analgesia/anesthesia	\$194.50

Any questions or concerns regarding this billing change can be answered by your Provider Contracting Representative, or Provider Services at 1-800-521-6007.

Sincerely,

Sherry Knowlton
Vice President and General Manager
AmeriHealth Mercy Health Plan

AmeriHealth Mercy

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