

## PAYMENT POLICY – READMISSIONS

Owner	Current Effective Date	Next Review Date
Claims	06/01/2026	08/31/2026

### OVERVIEW

Community Health Choice (Community) will consider repeat, non-separately reimbursable, and planned readmissions as part of a single episode of care for which a single payment is made. Potentially preventable readmissions are considered fully paid for both the initial (index) and any subsequent (readmission) hospital admissions by the single payment made for the initial (anchor) admission. Any admission with the same or similar diagnosis condition, or symptoms related to the evaluation and management of the medical condition associated with the prior inpatient admission within thirty (30) days of discharge for the initial (index) admission will be considered a readmission. All claims are subject to medical review by a Community Medical Director.

Planned readmissions within thirty (30) days of the initial (index) admission must be combined with the initial (index) admission for billing purposes.

If a hospital is part of a hospital system operating under the same hospital agreement, and/or if the hospital shares the same tax identification number with one or more other hospitals, then a readmission during the same thirty (30)-day period to another hospital within the same hospital system, or to another hospital operating under the same tax identification number as the first hospital, will be treated as a readmission to the same hospital and, as such, is subject to this policy.

This policy applies to all lines of business.

### Exclusions to this policy are:

Readmissions for the purpose of treatment of cancer care, neonatal care, obstetrical deliveries, behavioral health including for substance abuse, inpatient rehabilitation, transplants, and readmission when a patient is discharged from the initial (index) admission against medical advice.

## DEFINITION(S)

**Index Admission-** The initial acute inpatient hospitalization discharge starts the thirty (30) - day readmission measurement period.

**Readmission-** A subsequent acute inpatient hospital admission within thirty (30) calendar days of an index discharge.

**Related or Similar Diagnosis-** A readmission diagnosis that is the same as, a recognized complication of, or clinically related to the index condition/procedure.

**Unplanned Readmission-** Readmission that is not scheduled, elective, or part of a care plan.

**Planned Readmission-** A clinically scheduled hospitalization (e.g., staged surgery, maintenance chemotherapy, scheduled rehabilitation) that is not considered for readmission penalties and often considered part of treatment.

**Potentially Preventable Readmission (PRR)-** Return hospitalizations of a person within a period that results from deficiencies in the care or treatment provided to the person during a previous hospital stay or from deficiencies in post-hospital discharge follow-up. Texas Medicaid uses a fifteen (15) day readmission interval.