

# Provider Bulletin



## News and Information

June 1, 2023

### Inpatient Hospital Readmission Payment Policy Updated

UCare recently updated the Inpatient Hospital Readmission Payment Policy (available on the [Payment Policies webpage](#)). As part of this policy update, UCare's third-party vendor, Optum, will conduct post-payment reviews of applicable inpatient hospital admissions to assess whether the multiple hospital stays should bundle into one hospital confinement. **Audits will start with claims paid July 15, 2023, and later.**

UCare reserves the right to have Optum review readmissions and request medical records from the provider to determine if the readmission billed claim was appropriate. If it is determined that the readmission appears to be clinically related to a prior admission within the applicable timeframe, Optum will notify the provider with a request for medical records and the timeline to submit the medical records. Upon review of medical records, if Optum determines the readmission should not have been separately billed or paid by UCare, the provider has 30 calendar days to present medical record documentation in support of the second admission. If no documentation is received within this period of time, the original audit findings will stand, and any incorrect payments will be recouped.

If the provider fails to respond to the request for medical records within the allotted timeframe, UCare reserves the right to recover monies previously paid on the related readmission claim.