Molina Healthcare of Puerto Rico
Providers

REFERENCE LETTER PR PROV19-003-003ENG

March 18, 2019

TO   :   ALL HOSPITALS

RE   :   PRESENT ON ADMISSION (POA)

Greetings from the family of Molina Healthcare of Puerto Rico (MHPR). Our commitment is to offer and maintain high quality services for all of our members of the Government Health Plan, as well as to support with quality service to our participant providers.

In accordance with ASES contract requirements (article 7.1.1.1), section 2702 of the PPACA and 42 CFR 434.6(12), 438.3(g) and 447.26, Molina must require hospital facilities to report hospital acquired conditions (HACs) using the Present on Admission (POA) indicator and prevent payment for preventable conditions such as those that are a direct result of a hospital stay that could have been reasonably been prevented by the use of evidenced-based guidelines.

Examples of HACs are:

- Foreign object retained after surgery;
- Air embolism;
- Blood incompatibility;
- Stage III and IV pressure ulcers;
- Catheter-associated urinary tract infection;
- Vascular catheter-associated infection;
- Falls and trauma; including fractures, dislocations, intracranial injury, crushing injury, burns, electric shock;
- Surgical site infection; and/or
- Manifestations of poor glycemic control.

POA indicates a medical condition is present at the time of hospital admission, including those that develop during an outpatient encounter such as emergency department, observation or outpatient surgery.

The following POA indicators are accepted on claims:

- **Y** – Diagnosis was present at time of inpatient admission.
- **N** – Diagnosis was not present at time of inpatient admission (no payment will be made).
- **U** – Documentation is insufficient to determine if condition was present at admission (no payment will be made; not valid for primary diagnosis).

- **W** – Clinically undetermined.
- **(Blank)** – Exempt from POA reporting; only applies if the diagnosis is on the approved exemption list.

When a diagnosis is exempt from POA the value of that field must be blank, if it comes with a value it is considered a denial criteria.

For a comprehensive list of POA exempt codes, please visit:

https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/HospitalAcqCond/Coding.html

What this means to our facility providers:

- Inpatient hospital claims will be denied with no payment if the POA indicator is coded incorrectly or missing;
- no payment will be made on inpatient hospital claims for conditions that are acquired during the patient's hospitalization; and
- POA indicator U cannot be reported for primary diagnosis.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact our Provider Services Call Center, toll-free, at (877) 335-3305; for our TTY system, please call (787) 522-8281. Our service hours are Monday through Friday, from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

Cordially,

Tamara Morales Díaz, MBA
Director, Network Management
Molina Healthcare of Puerto Rico Inc.

If you would like to find out more information regarding the CMS' HAC/POA program, including billing requirements, the following CMS site provides further information:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/HospitalAcqCond/