



## **Readmission Update - Effective January 15, 2022 New Admission Where Patient Left Against Medical Advice (Medicaid)**

Effective January 15, 2022, Molina Healthcare of Washington will follow the inpatient billing guide and direction from the Health Care Authority (HCA) with regard to readmission within 24 hours when a member leaves against medical advice (AMA). This change is described in the HCA Inpatient Hospital Services Billing Guide on page 32 <https://www.hca.wa.gov/assets/billers-and-providers/Inpatient-hospital-bg-20211001.pdf>

This change affects Molina **Medicaid members**.

On page 32, HCA explains that “when a client leaves the hospital against medical advice and is readmitted to the same acute care hospital for evaluation and management of the medical condition that was the reason for the client’s prior encounter, then, for billing purposes the hospital must bill both encounters as one claim.” HCA has clarified that if the member/patient who left against medical advice **readmits within 24 hours for the same condition at the same hospital** the Managed Care Organization may deny the new admission and request that the new admission be linked to the initial admission. HCA has clarified that these readmissions are not a provider preventable readmission as described in WAC 182-550-2950.

As Molina performs admission reviews if a readmission to the same hospital/same diagnosis within 24 hours after leaving against medical advice is noted, the hospital will be informed that the readmission will be combined with the initial admission and will be processed as a continued stay. A single payment will be considered as payment in full for both the first and second hospital admissions. This information will be included and updated in the 2022 Molina Medicaid Provider Manual.

If you have questions, please contact your Provider Services representative at (855) 322-4082.

Thank you for serving Molina members.