

2010 BWC Policy Alert

Managed Care Organization Policy Flash

August 2010

Alert # 08-2010-01: Global surgical care: BWC's post-operative recovery period edit changed from 90 days to 60 days effective Aug. 1, 2010

Reference policy: Global surgical care-coding and reimbursement standards, clinical editing and policy alert # 01-2009-05

Location: <http://www.ohiobwc.com/downloads/blankpdf/BRM3.pdf> (chapter 3)

Purpose: This policy alert clarifies a change to the BWC edit for the global surgical care post-operative recovery period for major procedures as first published in policy alert # 01-2009-05

Issue: BWC has changed the edit for the global surgical post-operative recovery period for major procedures from 90 days to 60 days.

Explanation: In January 2009, BWC adopted medical billing industry standard edits for the global surgical post-operative recovery periods for major and minor procedures. The standard post-operative recovery period is 90 days for major procedures and 10 days for minor procedures. Understanding the nature of the injured worker population and to help facilitate effective and timely return to work, BWC has modified its post-operative recovery period edit for major procedures. This means BWC has changed the post-operative recovery period edit from 90 days to 60 days for major procedures for services rendered on or after Aug. 1, 2010. This change allows injured workers to more quickly re-engage with their physician(s) of record after a major surgery. The edit for the post-operative recovery period remains at 10 days.