July 27, 2017

**Insurer Denying Payment for Emergency Room Care**

Anthem Blue Cross is denying payment for unnecessary emergency room visits. The plan’s medical director looks at data showing symptoms and final diagnosis and decides to pay or not. There are nearly 2,000 diagnoses on the health plan’s list where payment will be denied.

Federal law requires that hospitals take every patient that comes to the ER. So, what happens when the insured patient refuses to pay the bill the insurer refused to pay? And how many patients know their chest pain is indigestion and not a heart attack? Anthem Blue Cross will penalize them if they don’t know. And that’s when the patient might have a real heart attack. When they see the surprise bill.

“Anthem Blue Cross expands program that denies claims for unnecessary ED services,” Les Masterson, Healthcare DIVE, July 12, 2017.


Presented daily by Twila Brase, President, Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom.

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