



# CODING GUIDELINES AND POLICY UPDATE

## Final Issue of *CGPU*

In order to streamline our communications and better serve you, we are discontinuing the *Coding Guidelines and Policy Update (CGPU)* publication. Our website, [www.ibx.com/medpolicy](http://www.ibx.com/medpolicy), provides more robust, comprehensive, and up-to-date information on new and revised policies, as well as additional information to keep you informed. The Fall 2008 version of *CGPU* is our last published issue.

Since its inception in Fall 2003, *CGPU* has provided concise summaries of coding guidelines, medical policies, and claim payment policies. However, that is only a small portion of what you can now find on our website.

### Get more from our site than you did from *CGPU*

Independence Blue Cross (IBC) houses all of the policy information formally found in *CGPU*, along with additional information, on our website at [www.ibx.com/medpolicy](http://www.ibx.com/medpolicy). Here you can find information regarding:

- recently released and updated policies;
- full medical and claim payment policies;
- news and announcements;
- policy notifications.

### Policy Bulletins: Your gateway to information on our medical and claim payment policies

The *Policy Bulletins* section of [www.ibx.com/medpolicy](http://www.ibx.com/medpolicy) gives you access to over 400 medical and claim payment policies and allows you to view them in their entirety, unlike *CGPU* which provided a short summary. The full policy also gives you a detailed breakdown of all the codes associated with the policy topic — information that was never included in *CGPU*.

Also added to this section is a new feature that allows you to sort the policies by type (e.g., Clinical, DME, etc.).

This page is updated as soon as a new policy is released, which can be as frequently as on a daily basis. While *CGPU* only provided quarterly announcements about our policies, the *Policy Bulletins* page always provides an accurate and up-to-date list of IBC's medical and claim payment policies.

### Recently released and updated policies: Monthly lists of new, updated, and archived policies

Our *Recently Released Policies* page is updated daily, with a complete listing of all new, updated, and archived policies that have been added to the *Policy Bulletins* section of the website. Each policy topic links directly from the *Recently Released Policies* section to the full policy in our database. This information was not included in *CGPU*.

### Policy Notifications: A listing of new and updated policies scheduled for release

The *Policy Notifications* page provides notice of policies scheduled for future release. The notifications represent new and updated policies that are scheduled to become active on the intended *effective date*. These notifications, listed by scheduled effective date, allow providers to become familiar with the new policy version in advance of its release. This site is updated often, so check back frequently. This information was not included in *CGPU*.

## News and Announcements: Articles and information related to our policies

The *News and Announcements* section is where you can find all the supplemental policy information you need. Here you'll find information on new coverage positions not found in policy, vendor changes, enhancements to the website, or even new policy disclosure tools available. For example, currently on the site you can find information about our coverage position for Pentacel® and Kinrix™ vaccines. This information was not included in *CGPU*.

## Robust Search Capabilities

The site now offers an expanded search capability that encompasses the whole policy website and not just the Policy Bulletins database. For example, if you type a topic into the search box, you'll get *all* applicable policies, articles, notifications, etc. — not just the policy bulletin.

## Q & A

### When is the last issue of *CGPU*?

The Fall 2008 issue is the final installment of this publication. The Summer 2008 edition was the last issue that included medical and claim payment policy summaries.

### Why is *CGPU* being discontinued?

In order to streamline our communications and better serve you, we are discontinuing *CGPU* and expanding our website. Our website, [www.ibx.com/medpolicy](http://www.ibx.com/medpolicy), provides more robust, comprehensive, and up-to-date information on new and revised policies, as well as additional information to keep you informed.

The page provides a more efficient and user-friendly way to update providers about our policies. It also allows providers to view all policies in their entirety on a daily basis, instead of quarterly.

### Is there a replacement publication for *CGPU*?

While some policy articles may still run occasionally in *Partners In Health Update*, providers should visit our website for comprehensive policy information.

### What if I don't have Internet access?

As before, specific questions related to policy can be directed to your Network Coordinator. If you need assistance identifying your Network Coordinator, please contact Customer Service at [1-800-ASK-BLUE](tel:1-800-ASK-BLUE), prompt 2 for Provider Services.

If you do have Internet access, you can identify your Network Coordinator and other related information by using the Network Coordinator Locator Tool. Visit [www.ibx.com/providers](http://www.ibx.com/providers), and select *Contact Information* from the left-hand navigation menu.

### Will the website give me as much information as *CGPU*?

Yes. In fact, the website gives you more information than *CGPU* did. There is a page dedicated to recently updated policies. You can read articles about new policies, link directly to full policies, search through our policies, and see notifications for policies scheduled to be released.

### How often is the website updated?

The website is updated daily, whenever new policy information is available.

### What is the contact information for IBC?

For questions about the Policy Committee Advisory Panel, please contact:

Gerald W. Peden, M.D., M.A.  
Senior Medical Director  
Claim Payment Policy Department  
Independence Blue Cross  
1901 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1480

For questions about HMO and PPO policies, procedures, eligibility, and claims, contact Customer Service at [1-800-ASK-BLUE](tel:1-800-ASK-BLUE), prompt 2 for Provider Services.

