



# Professional Provider Report

A newsletter for professional providers  
and their staff members

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## Policy Memo No. 12 updated to reflect OB Epidural Guidelines accurately

This newsletter will serve as the notification of the updated anesthesia policy memo as noted below and is effective Jan. 1, 2018. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBSKS) is changing the OB epidural guidelines in Policy Memo No. 12: Anesthesia, item 3.b in section VI. Related Policies, paragraph B. Regional Anesthesia, to allow one unit for every hour of monitoring during labor for vaginal deliveries and one unit every 15 minutes for cesarean deliveries.

Policy Memo No. 12 section VI. Related Policies, paragraph B. Regional Anesthesia item 3. OB Epidural Guidelines shall read as follows:

- a. Epidural placement should be billed separately, and reimbursed under the appropriate placement CPT code. The time for the placement of the epidural should NOT be included in total time of the monitoring/delivery anesthesia.
- b. Monitoring and delivery anesthesia will be reimbursed under the appropriate CPT neuraxial labor analgesia/anesthesia codes for vaginal and cesarean deliveries. BCBSKS will reimburse one unit for every hour of ~~documented~~ monitoring **for vaginal deliveries and one unit for every 15 minutes for cesarean deliveries.**
- c. Anesthesia time should be reported as total minutes.
- d. Anesthesia monitoring concludes at time of delivery.

Documentation to support medical necessity is still required as noted in item C. Monitored Anesthesia Services of Policy Memo No. 12. Adjustments will be made to 2018 cesarean delivery claims as applicable. The next scheduled change for updating the Policy Memos (if needed) is Jan. 1, 2019.

Please contact your professional relations representative with any questions pertaining to OB anesthesia.

The *Professional Provider Report* is published by the professional relations department of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas.

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