
SHORT STAY AUDIT SAMPLE

Dear Inpatient Facility:

In an ongoing effort to ensure high quality claims processing and payment, Ambetter from Peach State Health Plan is taking additional steps to verify the accuracy of payments made to our contracted facilities. Beginning in **December 2025**, Ambetter from Peach State Health Plan will begin auditing selected claims and associated medical records. Utilizing physician clinical judgment and nationally recognized guidelines there will be a review of the medical record to determine if the admission should have been billed as an outpatient claim rather than an inpatient admission.

These reviews have been described by many different names:

- Appropriateness of Admission Audits
- Length of Stay Audits
- Short Stay Audits
- Observation Audits
- Place of Service Audits

These reviews are supported by CMS regulations:

“For inpatient acute IPPS hospital claims, review of the medical record must indicate that hospital care was medically necessary, reasonable and appropriate for the diagnosis and condition of the beneficiary at any time during the stay, and that the stay was appropriate for inpatient payment.” CMS Internet-Only Manual (IOM), Publication 100-08, Medicare Program Integrity Manual (PIM), Chapter 6, § 6.5.2, effective 06-13-2017

“A physician order has no presumptive weight.” “A physician’s order will be evaluated in the context of the evidence in the medical record.” Code of Federal Regulations, Title 42 § 412.46(b)”

These reviews are also supported by Medicaid Regulations in many states.

Ambetter from Peach State Health Plan has contracted with Cotiviti to assist us in the effort. If you have claims selected for audit, you will receive a letter from Cotiviti requesting medical records for these claim audits on behalf of Ambetter from Peach State Health Plan. Once the audit has concluded, you will be advised of the outcome.

If you have any questions, please contact Ambetter from Peach State Health Plan at 877-687-1180. We appreciate your participation in our network and your dedication to the health and welfare of our members and your patients.

Sincerely,

Ambetter from Peach State Health Plan