

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding the reference price program for Major Joint Replacement Surgery:

Q. Does this program apply to other plan sponsors?

A. The program only applies to OEGB Connexus members at this time.

Q. Are professional fees subject to the reference price?

A. Only facility charges and implant fees are subject to the reference price.

Q. Does the additional cost tier still apply to OEGB members?

A. Yes, additional cost tiers still apply.

Q. Are prior authorizations still required for joint surgeries?

A. Yes, prior authorizations are still required.

Q. Are travel benefits available to members traveling for joint surgery?

A. Yes, members choosing to travel to a participating hospital are eligible for travel reimbursement. Travel benefits are available to OEGB members that use a participating reference price facility. The Plan will reimburse up to \$2,600 for eligible travel expenses. Please see member handbook for additional details.

Q. What happens when a member goes to a facility not participating in the reference price program?

A. Members will be balance billed for the difference between the facility's rate and the reference price. Depending on the facility and the exact services provided, the balance billing could be substantial in the range of \$10,000 to \$25,000 or more above the reference price. It is also important to note that these charges do not accrue toward the member's out of pocket maximum, therefore the member could be held liable for the additional cost.

Q. What types of surgeries does the reference price program include?

A. The reference price applies to full and partial knee and hip replacement and resurfacing procedures that fall under DRG 470, as well as those same procedures performed in hospital outpatient departments or ambulatory surgery centers. The reference price does not apply to any of the following: ankle joint replacement, limb reattachment, revision of previous joint replacement surgery, joint replacement procedures that fall under DRG 469 or other DRGs (such as those complicated by trauma, cancer, or other comorbidities).

Q. Are there any exemptions to the Oct 1, 2014 timeline?

A. Surgeries approved by prior authorization and completed before December 1, 2014 are exempt from the reference price program in order to provide a transition period.

Q. Has this been done anywhere else in the nation?

A. Yes, CalPERS of California has instituted similar programs for a variety of procedures.

Q. I noticed the hospital where I am credentialed is not the list. Is it too late to join?

A. We are available to meet with you and your hospital to discuss the program. Contact our provider relations team at providerrelations@modahealth.com to set up a meeting.