

## **How does Highmark determine the status of a patient following a visit to the emergency room?**

Highmark does not determine the status of where a patient goes after the emergency room (ER). If a provider feels the member should be admitted and calls for pre-certification, the pre-cert team will determine if it is medically necessary for a member to be inpatient. If it is determined that it is not medically necessary based on the medical notes provided by the facility, the pre-cert team may approve an observation status. Observation cases are reimbursed based on a percentage of the billed and covered charges and inpatient cases are reimbursed based on a diagnostic related group (DRG) case rate schedule.