

## I. INTRODUCTION

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AABB is pleased to provide this comprehensive and updated *Billing Guide for Blood Products and Related Services*. The July 2020 version of the guide was overseen by the AABB Coding and Reimbursement Committee. It was produced with support received through a generous grant from the Commonwealth Transfusion Foundation. The Commonwealth Transfusion Foundation is a nonprofit, private foundation whose mission is to inspire and champion research and education that optimizes clinical outcomes in transfusion medicine and ensures a safe and sustainable blood supply for the United States.

AABB prepared this guide to help hospitals and other providers understand the key coding, billing, and reimbursement issues for blood-related care, so that they can submit accurate claims and receive appropriate reimbursement—both now and in the future. It is important to keep in mind that information in this guide (accurate as of July 2020) may change with the passage of time. Links provided in the reference list are more likely to contain up-to-date information in the future.

The seven major sections in the guide contain critical information:

- General overviews of coverage, coding, and reimbursement.
- Details on the rules (and exceptions) surrounding billing for blood products and transfusion services.
- Details on both the hospital inpatient and hospital outpatient settings.
- Other important topics and issues related to blood reimbursement.

In addition, the nine appendices address specific situations such as: billing for molecular testing, therapeutic apheresis, physician services, and blood derivatives; reimbursement in nonhospital settings; and handling rejected or denied claims.

Because Medicare plays a predominant role in reimbursing for blood products, most of the information in this guide is based on Medicare blood billing guidelines. Although many other payers tend to use Medicare’s guidelines as a basis for their own policies, the billing requirements of other payers may vary. Providers should contact their local commercial insurers and Medicaid plans for specific information on their coverage, coding, and payment policies.

The 2020 version of the guide is intended to replace the October 2007 publication, “AABB Billing Guide for Transfusion and Cellular Therapy Services (version 4.0),” which was produced with the support of a group of manufacturer members of the Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed) that manufacture a broad range of blood safety, testing, collection, and transfusion technologies.