

# PROVIDER BULLETIN

## PROVIDER INFORMATION



July 1, 2019

### New Medical, Medical Drug and Behavioral Health Policy Management Updates for Commercial and Medicare Advantage Lines of Business

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) will be expanding utilization management requirements for Commercial and Medicare Advantage lines of business. This includes prior authorization (PA) requirements.

As stewards of healthcare expenditures for our subscribers, we are charged with ensuring they receive the highest quality, evidence-based care. This is accomplished through expanded development of medical policies and through management of these policies to include the PA process. The primary purpose of the PA process is to ensure that evidence-based care is provided to our subscribers, driving quality, safety, and affordability.

**The following prior authorization changes will be effective September 2, 2019 for Commercial lines of business:**

Policy #	Policy Title/ Service	New Policy	Prior Authorization Requirement	Line(s) of Business
II-173	Accepted Indications for Medical Drugs Which are Not Addressed by a Specific Medical Policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brexanolone (Zulresso™)</li> </ul>	No	New	Commercial

**In addition, the following prior authorization changes will be effective July 1, 2019 for Medicare Advantage lines of business due to superseding National Coverage Determination (NCD) criteria. *This is intended to clarify the Medicare policies currently used for prior authorization:***

Policy #	Policy Title/ Service	New Policy	Prior Authorization Requirement	Line(s) of Business
NCD 260.1	Adult Liver Transplantation	No <i>(Used in addition to IV-128)</i>	Continued	Medicare Advantage
NCD 260.3	Pancreas Transplants	No <i>(Used in addition to IV-128)</i>	Continued	Medicare Advantage
NCD 260.9	Heart Transplants	No <i>(Used in addition to IV-128)</i>	Continued	Medicare Advantage

## Products Impacted

The information in this Bulletin applies **only** to subscribers who have coverage through Medicare Advantage lines of business.

## Submitting a PA Request when Applicable

- Before submitting a PA request, Providers are asked to check applicable Blue Cross policy and **attach all required clinical documentation** with the request. PA requests will be reviewed when patient-specific, relevant medical documentation has been provided supporting the medical necessity of the service. Failure to submit required information may result in review delays (if outreach is needed to obtain missing clinical information) or a denial of the request due to insufficient information. If a provider does not obtain the required PA before rendering services, Blue Cross will deny claims as provider liability for lack of prior authorization.
- PA approval will be based on the Blue Cross policy criteria. To review Blue Cross criteria:
  - Go to [providers.bluecrossmn.com](http://providers.bluecrossmn.com)
  - Under Tools & Resources, select “Medical Policy”, and read/accept the Blue Cross Medical Policy Statement
  - Select the “+” (plus) sign next to Medical and Behavioral Health Policies, then select “Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota Medical Policies” to access policy criteria.
- Prior Authorization Lists are updated to reflect additional PA requirements on the effective date of the management change and includes applicable codes. To access Prior Authorization Lists for all lines of business:
  - Go to [providers.bluecrossmn.com](http://providers.bluecrossmn.com)
  - Under Tools & Resources, select “Medical Policy”, and read/accept the Blue Cross Medical Policy Statement
  - Select the “+” (plus) sign next to “Utilization Management” to access the Prior Authorization Lists.
- If a provider does not obtain the required PA before rendering services, Blue Cross will deny claims as provider liability for lack of prior authorization. The requirement applies to subscribers starting therapy and to those already being treated with a therapy noted above.
- **For PA requirements effective September 2, providers may submit PA requests for any treatment in the above table starting August 26, 2019.**

## Providers can Submit an Electronic Prior Authorization (ePA) Request

- Online via our free [Availity](#) provider portal – for Blue Cross to review.
- For Medical Drugs, PA’s can also be submitted using a [NCPDP](#) standard XML file feed to Blue Cross through CenterX, via an integrated Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system. To learn how to do this, providers should contact their EMR vendor for assistance.
- Out of state, non-contracted providers can submit a PA request to Blue Cross by either using the electronic processes above, the [Minnesota Uniform Form for PA Request and Formulary Exceptions](#) fax form located under the Forms section on the Blue Cross website, or their own PA form (secure fax: 651.662.2810).

Note: An approved PA does not guarantee coverage under a subscriber’s benefit plan. Subscriber benefit plans vary in coverage and some plans may not provide coverage for certain services discussed in the medical policies.

## Reminder Regarding Medical Policy Updates & Changes:

Medical Policy changes are communicated in the Upcoming Medical Policy Notifications section of the Blue Cross Medical and Behavioral Health Policy website. The Upcoming Policies section lists new, revised, or inactivated policies approved by the Blue Cross Medical and Behavioral Health Policy Committee and are effective at minimum 45 days from the date they were posted. To access the website:

- Go to [providers.bluecrossmn.com](http://providers.bluecrossmn.com)
- Under Tools & Resources, select “Medical Policy”, and read/accept the Blue Cross Medical Policy Statement
- Select the “+” (plus) sign next to “Medical and Behavioral Health Policies” to see the Upcoming Medical Policy Notifications section

## Questions?

If you have questions, please contact provider services at **(651) 662-5200** or **1-800-262-0820**.