

PROVIDER BULLETIN

PROVIDER INFORMATION



February 1, 2019

Updated Minnesota Health Care Programs and Minnesota Senior Health Options Prior Authorization and Medical Policy Requirements

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) has revised its government programs prior authorization (PA) and medical policy lists published on February 1, 2019. The updated lists clarify medical policy and PA requirements for the Minnesota Health Care Programs (Families and Children, MNCare, and MSC+) and Minnesota Senior Health Options (MSHO) products. Providers are encouraged to access online PA and medical policies to determine current requirements as certain policies may have been added or removed. The codes that are included are for informational purposes only and are subject to change without notice. Inclusion or exclusion of a code does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement.

Blue Cross has implemented a pay and educate phase to allow providers the ability to become accustomed to the policy criteria and documentation required with a PA request. Blue Cross' expectation is that the providers take this opportunity to familiarize themselves with the new policies and authorization requirements during this initial implementation phase. **The pay and educate phase for outpatient authorizations has been extended until April 1, 2019.** Enforcement of prior authorizations will begin for dates of service on or after April 1, 2019.

Effective Dates of Service: January 1, 2019 – March 31, 2019:

- Provider will submit all relevant clinical information for review
- Clinical information will be reviewed to determine if the requests meet the clinical guidelines
- Requests that do not meet criteria per the evidence-based guidelines will receive a denial with educational language in the rationale to help providers understand why a PA request did not meet the clinical guidelines

Outpatient claims for dates of service beginning April 1, 2019 will deny provider liability without an approved prior authorization.

Inpatient Pre-Certification Requirements for Behavioral Health (BH) Inpatient Psychiatric and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Hospitalization Admissions:

- Beginning February 1, 2019, all inpatient psychiatric and SUD hospitalization admissions will require pre-certification for Blue Advantage Families and Children (F&C) and Minnesota Senior Care Plus (MSC+) members.
- BH policies will be managed via MCG Guidelines as listed above and previously communicated in the December Behavioral Health Provider Bulletin.

Where do I find the current government programs PA list?

Go to **providers.bluecrossmn.com**

- Under Tools & Resources, select “Medical Policy,” and read/accept the Blue Cross Medical Policy and UM Statement
- Click on the ‘+’ next to ‘Utilization Management’ and under the ‘Precertification Lists’ select the ‘MN Government Programs Pre-Certification/Pre-Authorization/Notification List’

OR

Go to **providers.bluecrossmn.com**

- Under Tools & Resources, select “Migration of Minnesota Health Care Programs”
- Click on the ‘+’ next to ‘Prior Authorizations’ and select the ‘Prior Authorization Grid (PDF)’

Where do I find the current government programs Medical Policy Grid?

Go to **providers.bluecrossmn.com**

- Under Tools & Resources, select “Migration of Minnesota Health Care Programs”
- Click on the ‘+’ next to ‘Medical Policies’ and select the ‘MHCP Medical Policy Grid (PDF)’

Please note that the Precertification Look Up Tool (PLUTO) will not be available for prior authorization look up.

Questions?

If you have questions, please contact Blue Cross Provider Services at **1-866-518-8448**.