

# PROVIDER BULLETIN

## PROVIDER INFORMATION



May 3, 2021

### **Updated Prior Authorization Requirements for Psychological and Neuropsychological Testing for Commercial and Medicare Advantage Products**

Effective July 1, 2021, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) will be modifying the psychological and neuropsychological testing prior authorization process and will require **all providers** to submit required prior authorization requests for psychological and neuropsychological testing prior to services being rendered.

#### **Medicare Advantage Products**

Providers submitting prior authorization (PA) requests for psychological and neuropsychological testing for Medicare Advantage members using the Authorization tool in the Availity<sup>®</sup> provider portal will be prompted to attach clinical records to support the medical necessity of the request. Requests are reviewed for medical necessity using the appropriate Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) criteria.

#### **Commercial Products**

As previously communicated in Quick Points QP37-21, providers submitting prior authorization (PA) requests for psychological and neuropsychological testing for commercial members using the Authorization tool in the Availity<sup>®</sup> provider portal are prompted to complete an online survey to provide necessary information to Blue Cross.

This survey asks for the total number of testing **hours** requested and asks if the member has had any psychological or neuropsychological testing in the past six months. Based on the answers to these two questions, the provider may receive an immediate approval. If the request is not immediately approved, the provider will be prompted to attach clinical records to support the medical necessity of the request.

#### **Success with Surveys**

Request only the procedure codes that require PA when submitting the authorization request using the Availity<sup>®</sup> provider portal. Additional codes that are incidental to the primary code should not be submitted. Requests with surveys cannot be immediately approved when there are incidental codes that do not require PA included.

#### **Products Impacted**

This information impacts commercial and Medicare Advantage products only.

#### **Questions?**

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