

# PROVIDER BULLETIN

## PROVIDER INFORMATION



May 1, 2019

### Site of Service for Selected Outpatient Procedures: XI-03 Medical Policy Update

Effective July 1, 2019, an important update will be made to the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) medical policy, XI-03: Site of Service for Selected Outpatient Procedures.

Selected outpatient ear, nose and throat (ENT) procedures (listed below) will be added to this medical policy and must be performed in a non-hospital outpatient setting – such as an Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) or physician’s office – to be eligible for reimbursement, unless certain medical or geographic criteria are met for the procedure to be performed in a hospital outpatient facility. Many specialists in the Blue Cross network have already started redirecting patients to the ASC or office setting for these services when clinically appropriate. Groups performing these procedures outside the hospital have shown evidence of safe, high quality outcomes at a lower cost, while maintaining an excellent patient experience.

Procedures administered in a hospital outpatient facility that do not meet medical policy criteria will not be eligible for reimbursement. Post-service audits will be conducted for services taking place at an outpatient hospital setting using the following information to ensure policy criteria are met:

- Documentation of medical necessity to receive the procedure at an outpatient hospital setting.

Geographic exclusions for post-service audits include:

- Services for patients living greater than 25 miles from an in-network ASC or office performing these procedures are excluded from this program.
- Hospital outpatient facilities that do not have an in-network ASC or office performing these procedures within 25 miles of the outpatient hospital setting are excluded from this program.

Please check the subscriber’s benefits and confirm the **in-network** site of service.

#### List of Impacted Procedures Added to Medical Policy (CPT Codes):

- **21320:** Closed treatment of nasal bone fracture; with stabilization
- **30140:** Submucous resection inferior turbinate, partial or complete, any method
- **30520:** Septoplasty or submucous resection, with or without cartilage scoring, contouring or replacement with graft
- **69436:** Tympanostomy (requiring insertion of ventilating tube), general anesthesia
- **69631:** Tympanoplasty without mastoidectomy (including canalplasty, atticotomy and/or middle ear surgery), initial or revision; without ossicular chain reconstruction

#### Products Impacted

This program only applies to fully-insured and self-insured commercial lines of business. As a reminder for an Accountable Care Organization (ACO) subscriber, please have the subscriber call Blue Cross at **(651) 662-5200** or **1-800-262-0820**.

**Predetermination Process for Providers:**

If certain unforeseen clinical circumstances **not** outlined in the medical policy arise that dictate the member should receive care in an outpatient hospital setting, providers may submit a predetermination form via fax to verify if a service listed above will be deemed appropriate prior to treatment. Predeterminations are **not** required and do not guarantee payment.

**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**.