PROVIDER BULLETIN
PROVIDER INFORMATION

BlueCross BlueShield Minnesota

January 2, 2019

Process Change for Requesting Precertification for Skilled Nursing Facility, Long Term Acute Care and Inpatient Rehabilitation Admissions

In order to better assist our members with post-acute level of care transitions, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota (Blue Cross) is changing the process for reviewing Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF), Inpatient Rehabilitation (IRF/ACR), and Long Term Acute Care (LTAC) admissions for **commercial and Federal Employee Program (FEP) members**. Effective **March 1, 2019**, Blue Cross will only accept requests for post-acute level of care admissions from the **discharging hospital**/facility and will no longer accept them from the admitting facility.

Post-acute admissions for Medicare Advantage members will continue to be managed by eviCore healthcare.

This process change is designed to align the member's discharge planning decisions with the facility's clinical team recommendations, to ensure the member's safety, to maximize use of in-network benefits, and to reduce preventable readmissions.

Blue Cross will accept extended stay (concurrent) requests, if needed, from the admitting facility after the initial admission has been approved.

Summary of changes
- For members in an acute care facility, the hospital will be responsible for submitting the initial inpatient precertification request for SNF, IRF and LTAC admissions
- SNF, IRF and LTAC facilities will submit concurrent review requests
- SNF, IRF and LTAC facilities will submit precertification requests when a patient admits directly from the community

Note: Home Health Care agencies will continue to submit prior authorization (PA) requests for direct hospital discharges and community referrals. Discharging SNF, IRF and LTAC facilities may also submit Home Health PA requests.

How to submit a request to Blue Cross for SNF, IRF or LTAC admissions
Blue Cross accepts precertification and prior authorization requests from providers in any of the following ways:

- **Availity.com** is the quickest way to create prior authorizations and check existing case status.
  - If the admitting facility is not yet known at the time the authorization request is created in Availity, use the discharging facility as the "facility" on screen three. When the member is discharged, contact Blue Cross to update the admitting facility's information.
  - **Admitting facilities should obtain the authorization number from the discharging facility at the time of admission.** Admitting facilities can request concurrent reviews on Availity using Authorization Inquiry to find the initial approval and selecting the "Update" option. Validate the authorization is approved for the correct facility before adding a concurrent review request.
- Fax the request with supporting clinical records to **(651) 662-1004**

- Telephone – Call Blue Cross at **1-800-711-9868** to start the request and discuss the patient's discharge needs with our clinical review team.

Questions?

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