

PROVIDER BULLETIN

PROVIDER INFORMATION



July 1, 2014

Pre-certification and Concurrent Review Changes for Medicare Skilled Nursing Facility Services for SecureBlue (MSHO) Subscribers

Effective September 1, 2014, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross), are expanding pre-certification and concurrent review requirements for admissions for Medicare skilled nursing home services (SNF). This expansion applies to **all providers in Minnesota and bordering counties**. Pre-certification and concurrent reviews apply to health services provided to dually eligible SecureBlue (MSHO) subscribers. All other Minnesota Health Care Programs and Medicare supplement benefit plans are excluded from review.

Custodial nursing facility (NF) services will not require authorization at this time.

Benefit information

Providers are encouraged to use **availity.com**, or call BLUELINE at **(651) 662-5200** or **1-800-262-0820** to obtain subscriber benefits prior to beginning services. Pre-certification cannot be entered unless benefits have been verified. Please validate benefits via one of the methods listed above prior to contacting the plan to submit your pre-certification request.

Pre-certification requirements

Provider will obtain pre-certification from Blue Cross before admitting a subscriber. If admission is emergent or after business hours, provider will obtain pre-certification within two (2) business days after the admission.

Provider shall obtain pre-certification by calling Blue Cross at **(651) 662-5540** or **1-800-711-9868**. Blue Cross will use criteria set forth by McKesson Interqual and/or Medicare Benefit Policy Manual Chapter 8-Coverage for Extended Care (SNF) Services under Hospital Insurance, in conducting a medical necessity review for the admission.

At the time of pre-certification, a date will be established to conduct concurrent review.

Concurrent review requirements

Providers will obtain additional authorized days (concurrent review) by completing the Inpatient Admission Notification & Pre-Certification Request form located on our website at **providers.bluecrossmn.com**. Fax the form along with relevant clinical information to **651-662-4022**.

Concurrent review will include verification of medical necessity based on criteria set forth in McKesson Interqual and/or Medicare Benefit Policy Manual Chapter 8 – Coverage for Extended Care (SNF) Services under Hospital Insurance for skilled facility days. The clinician will respond to the request within usual regulatory timelines.

Questions?

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