

# PROVIDER BULLETIN

## PROVIDER INFORMATION



June 2, 2014

### **Pre-certification/Pre-authorization Changes for Home Health Services for Commercial Subscribers**

Effective August 1, 2014, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) will be implementing pre-certification/pre-authorization changes for home health services for subscribers with commercial coverage.

#### **Pre-authorization requirements**

Physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, dietician services, social work services, and respiratory therapy in the home will no longer require pre-certification/pre-authorization. Although the change will become effective on August 1, 2014, providers may discontinue requesting prior authorization for these services as soon as convenient prior to this date.

Pre-certification/pre-authorization continues to be required for skilled nursing visits, home health aide visits, and extended-hours skilled nursing care, also referred to as private duty nursing.

To obtain pre-authorization for home health care, please complete the Home Health Care Pre-Authorization/Prior Approval Request Form located on the Forms & publications section of [providers.bluecrossmn.com](http://providers.bluecrossmn.com). Fax the completed form and relevant clinical documentation to **(651) 662-1004**.

Benefits are allowable only for services that are medically necessary and in accordance with the subscriber's contract.

Failure to provide evidence of medical necessity may result in claim denials as provider liability.

Charges for or related to care that is custodial or not normally provided as preventive care or for treatment of an illness/injury are not covered. Custodial care is defined as services to assist in activities of daily living, such as: giving medicine that can usually be taken without help, preparing special foods, helping someone walk, getting in and out of bed, dressing, eating, bathing, and using the toilet. Custodial services do not seek to cure illness, are performed regularly as part of a routine or schedule, and do not need to be provided directly or indirectly by a health care professional.

#### **Additional information**

Providers are encouraged to use [availity.com](http://availity.com) or call BLUELINE at **(651) 662-5200** or **1-800-262-0820** to obtain subscriber benefits prior to beginning services.

#### **Questions?**

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