

PROVIDER BULLETIN

Provider information



July 5, 2012

Knee arthroplasty pre-certification/pre-authorization review requirement

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) will be implementing a pre-certification/pre-authorization requirement surrounding knee arthroplasty (knee replacement) procedures effective August 27, 2012. Included in this requirement are all members who are either:

- under the age of 60 years old
- greater than or equal to age 80

Excluded from this requirement are members in Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP), Federal Employee Program[®] (FEP) and Medicare Primary.

The purpose of pre-certification/pre-authorization is to review services prior to being rendered to determine if the services are contractually eligible and medically necessary. Medical policy criteria and member contract language is used to assist in determining if benefits are available for the requested service.

Certification/authorization for a service, device or drug **does not** in itself guarantee coverage, but notifies you that as described, the service, device or drug meets the criteria for medical necessity and appropriateness.

Medical policy information

Specifics of the medical policy requirements are outlined in the Knee Arthroplasty (knee replacement) medical policy IV-122, which is available on the “Upcoming Policies” section of the Medical Policy Manual. The “Upcoming Policies” section lists new or revised policies approved by the Blue Cross Medical and Behavioral Health Policy Committee along with an effective date and the date notification was posted to the manual.

Upcoming medical and behavioral health policies are available for your use and review on the Blue Cross website at providers.bluecrossmn.com. Select “Medical policy” (under Tools & Resources), read and accept the Blue Cross Medical Policy Statement, and then select “View All Active Policies.” Once there, select the “Upcoming Policies” section of the Medical and Behavioral Health Policy Manual.

Questions?

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