



Medical necessity criteria vendor change

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, Commercial Blue Plus, and BlueLink TPA (Blue Cross) are informing you that we changed medical necessity criteria vendors for cases where Blue Cross does not have an existing medical policy. Our previous contract was with Milliman Care Guidelines.

We have finalized a new agreement with McKesson Health Solutions, who provides medical necessity criteria for the majority of hospitals and health care systems in Minnesota, for use of their InterQual Medical Necessity Criteria. Effective March 26, 2012, clinicians, peer reviewers, and appeals reviewers will utilize this tool to determine medical necessity and level of care review for inpatient, long-term acute care, and acute rehabilitation admissions and length of stay. Criteria is available for review, on a case-by-case basis, upon request. The Blue Cross clinician who is communicating the results of the case review will be able to assist you with your questions.

We will extend the use of the McKesson InterQual criteria to behavioral health and chemical dependency, along with chiropractic, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, home health care, and skilled nursing facility reviews on April 1, 2012.

Government Programs will also be using McKesson InterQual Criteria, in addition to Medicare and MHCP guidelines, for inpatient care, long-term acute care, acute rehabilitation care and behavioral health services.

Questions?

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