

Bulletin



February 28, 2011

MHCP members need to utilize Blue Distinction Centers for Bariatric Surgery®

In 2006, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) began participating in the program that is now called Blue Distinction Centers for Bariatric Surgery®. This program requires facilities to meet evidence-based quality measures in order to receive the Blue Distinction designation. The facilities also need to be redesignated and continue to meet criteria on a regular basis in order to maintain their high quality designation.

As a reminder, bariatric surgery services for Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) members ages 18 and older will be eligible for reimbursement only if performed by a Blue Plus network provider in a facility that is one of the Blue Distinction Centers for Bariatric Surgery. The list of designated facilities may change over time, so be sure to call provider services before referring a member to a particular facility. The following facilities are currently included:

- Abbott Northwestern Hospital, Minneapolis, MN
- Altru Health System, Grand Forks, ND
- Avera McKennan Hospital, Sioux Falls, SD
- Cuyuna Regional Medical Center, Crosby, MN
- Essentia Health St Mary's Medical Center, Duluth, MN
- Fairview Southdale Hospital, Edina, MN
- Gundersen Lutheran Medical Center, LaCrosse, WI
- HealthEast St. Joseph's Hospital, St. Paul, MN
- Hennepin County Medical Center, Minneapolis, MN
- Mayo Clinic, St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester, MN
- Park Nicollet Methodist Hospital, St. Louis Park, MN
- Sanford Hospital, South University Drive, Fargo, ND
- Sanford Medical Center, Sioux Falls, SD
- St. Cloud Hospital, St. Cloud, MN
- St. Joseph's Area Health Services, Park Rapids, MN
- United Hospital, St. Paul, MN
- Unity Hospital, Fridley, MN
- University of Minnesota Medical Center-Fairview, Minneapolis, MN

Note: Designation as Blue Distinction Centers® means these facilities' overall experience and aggregate data met objective criteria established in collaboration with expert clinicians' and leading professional organizations' recommendations. Individual outcomes may vary. To find out which services are covered under a member's health plan, please call Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota.

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Pre-certification/pre-authorization

All bariatric surgery requires pre-certification/pre-authorization. Please consult the Blue Cross Medical and Behavioral Health Policy Manual located on providers.bluecrossmn.com for details. Pre-certification consists of a medical necessity review using MHCP guidelines for bariatric surgery.

MHCP members affected

MHCP members affected are as follows:

Product name	Group numbers
Blue Advantage (PMAP)	PP011, PP012, PP014, PP015, PP016, PP017, PP021, PP022, PP024, PP025, PP026, PP027, PP031, PP032, PP034, PP035, PP036, PP037
MinnesotaCare	PP111, PP112, PP121, PP122, PP131, PP132, PP141, PP142, PP151, PP152, PP161, PP162, PP163, PP164
Minnesota Senior Care Plus (MSC+)	PP041, PP042, PP044, PP051, PP052, PP054, PP055, PP056, PP057, PP061, PP062, PP064, PP071, PP072, PP074, PP075, PP076, PP077
SecureBlue SM (HMO SNP)	All group numbers that begin with PP2

Questions?

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