



High-Technology Diagnostic Imaging (HTDI) program - delay in implementation of new decision support program

Due to circumstances beyond the control of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross), there has been a delay in the implementation of the Institute of Clinical Systems Improvement (ICSI) sponsored HTDI decision support program, which was announced in Provider Bulletin P39-10, dated November 15, 2010.

According to Provider Bulletin P39-10, effective March 1, 2011, ordering providers were to be required to use a decision support system as part of their process for elective, outpatient HTDI procedures. Instead, this requirement will be implemented at a later date still to be determined.

Therefore, please note the following:

- Provider Bulletin P39-10 dated November 15, 2010, is withdrawn at this time.
- The new requirements as previously described will be implemented as of an effective date to be determined.
- A new Provider Bulletin will be issued regarding the HTDI Program once the implementation date and related details have been finalized. Providers will receive at least 90 days notice before the new implementation date.
- All providers should continue to follow Medical and Behavioral Health Policies for selected HTDI procedures as summarized in the section below.

Medical and behavioral health policies relating to HTDI

Commercial Products:

All providers must continue to follow current pre-certification/pre-authorization and investigative policies in the Medical and Behavioral Health Policy Manual for commercial products. The following procedures have coverage criteria, are subject to medical review and continue to require the standard pre-certification/pre-authorization process as noted:

- Computed tomography angiography (CTA) for evaluation of coronary arteries
- CT colonography (virtual colonoscopy) as a screening test for colorectal cancer (pre-certification/pre-authorization required)
- MRI of the breast (pre-certification/pre-authorization required EXCEPT in individuals with biopsy-proven breast cancer).
- Positron emission tomography (PET)

Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP):

All providers must continue to follow current pre-certification/pre-authorization and investigative policies in the Medical and Behavioral Health Policy Manual for Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) as defined in your Provider Service Agreement. The following procedures continue to require the standard pre-certification/pre-authorization process:

- MRI of the breast
- CT colonography (virtual colonoscopy) as a screening test for colorectal cancer
- Computed tomography angiography (CTA) for evaluation of coronary arteries, including coronary CT and EBCT for calcium scoring
- PET scans
- SPECT scans case-by-case review
- Capsule endoscopy

Non-covered procedures

These procedures are not covered for either commercial or Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) members:

- Computed tomography (CT) screening for coronary artery disease
- Full-body CT scanning
- Spiral CT screening for lung cancer

Contact us

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