



## Blue Cross medical policy and pre-certification/pre-authorization requirements for autism spectrum disorders: early intensive behavioral intervention (EIBI)

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus medical policy X-44, Autism Spectrum Disorders: Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention (EIBI), has been revised and the policy changes will become effective on May 2, 2011.

The policy criteria for defining when EIBI assessment and treatment will be considered medically necessary is available on the “Upcoming Policies” section of the medical policy website.

Upcoming medical and behavioral health policies are available for your review on the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota website at [providers.bluecrossmn.com](http://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.

### Pre-certification/pre-authorization requirements

- Pre-certification/pre-authorization will be required for all EIBI services (procedure codes **H2014, H2017 and H2019**) in which the level of treatment provided consists of more than nine (9) hours per week for intensive therapy. A week is defined as a period of seven consecutive days.
- A summary of the components of the multidisciplinary Diagnostic Assessment as described in the Autism Spectrum Disorders: Assessment Medical Policy X-43, must be included with the authorization request.
- A one-visit Diagnostic Assessment (procedure codes **90801 or 90802**) may be completed without pre-certification.
- Any psychological or neuropsychological testing also requires pre-certification/pre-authorization before performing services for a member. Please refer to Provider Bulletin P1-11 for additional information.
- Pre-certification/pre-authorization requirement applies to all participating providers.

### Obtaining pre-certification/pre-authorization effective May 2, 2011

Providers can obtain pre-certification/pre-authorization for EIBI assessment/services by completing the Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention Autism Spectrum Disorder Service request form, which can be found at [providers.bluecrossmn.com](http://providers.bluecrossmn.com). Click on “Forms & publications.” From the drop-down box choose “forms: pre-admission/prior authorization.” The completed form may be faxed to **(651) 662-0854**.

### Claims audits

Routine claim audits have disclosed occurrences where some providers have been submitting claims for EIBI services that do not meet medical policy criteria. This bulletin is a reminder that providers must abide by the requirements of all medical policies.

This action is being taken to help ensure that members receive the appropriate level of care and frequency of service for EIBI services. Failure to provide evidence of medical necessity may result in claim denials.

## Product application

EIBI services are subject to the member's plan benefits. Some benefit plans may exclude coverage of EIBI services.

Pre-certification/pre-authorization review applies to all EIBI services for members in fully insured and self-insured benefit plans, Blue Advantage (PMAP) programs, and MinnesotaCare programs when the provider of the service is a participating provider caring for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota members. This does not include members of other Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans.

Pre-certification/pre-authorization review for EIBI services is not required for members in the following plans:

- Minnesota Senior Care Plus (MSC+)
- SecureBlue<sup>SM</sup> (HMO SNP)
- Platinum Blue<sup>SM</sup> (Cost)
- MedicareBlue<sup>SM</sup> PPO (Regional PPO)
- Medicare supplement

## Coding

Please refer to Provider Bulletin P23R1-09 that was effective October 28, 2009, regarding coding for EIBI services.

Self-insured and fully insured plans except for Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP):

Provider shall submit claims for EIBI services for Autism Spectrum Disorder using HCPCS codes H2014, H2017 or H2019. Provider shall bill only for 15-minute face-to-face sessions, which shall have a value of 1 unit. The codes listed above replace the use of CPT code 90899.

MHCP:

For MHCP subscribers eligible for Children's Therapeutic Services and Supports (CTSS) provider shall submit claims for EIBI services for Autism Spectrum Disorder using HCPCS codes H2014-UA, H2017 or H2019-UA. Code H2017 is not a CTSS code; therefore, it should not be billed using the UA modifier. Provider shall only bill for 15-minute face-to-face sessions, which shall have a value of 1 unit. The codes listed above replace the use of CPT code 90899.

HCPCS codes H2018 and H2020:

Blue Cross will accept HCPCS codes H2018 and H2020 but will not allow reimbursement for these codes. Provider shall submit the timed codes listed above for reimbursement for EIBI services.

## Questions?

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