

Bulletin



January 27, 2011

Blue Cross medical policy and pre-certification/pre-authorization requirements for psychological and neuropsychological testing

The new Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus medical policy X-45, psychological and neuropsychological testing policy, will become effective May 2, 2011.

The policy criteria for defining when psychological and neuropsychological testing 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. 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 psychological (procedure codes **96101, 96102 and 96103**) and neuropsychological (procedure codes **96116, 96118, 96119, 96120 and 96125**) testing before performing services for a member.
- A one-visit Diagnostic Assessment (procedure codes **90801 or 90802**) may be completed without pre-certification.
- All services are subject to the benefit and network requirement provisions as written in the member’s plan.
- Pre-certification/pre-authorization requirement applies to Minnesota providers and providers outside of Minnesota.

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

Providers can obtain pre-certification/pre-authorization for psychological and neuropsychological testing by completing the Pre-certification/pre-authorization for psychological and neuropsychological testing form, which will be available at 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**.

This action is being taken to help ensure that members receive the appropriate level of care and frequency of service for psychological and neuropsychological testing. Failure to provide evidence of medical necessity may result in claim denials with the outcome of provider liability.

The pre-certification/pre-authorization protocol parallels the process utilized for other medical/surgical services.

Product application

Pre-certification/pre-authorization review applies to all psychological and neuropsychological testing for members in fully insured and self-insured benefit plans. Pre-certification/pre-authorization review for psychological and neuropsychological testing is not required for members in the following plans:

- Blue Advantage (PMAP) programs
- MinnesotaCare programs

- Minnesota Senior Care Plus (MSC+)
- SecureBlueSM (HMO SNP)
- Platinum BlueSM (Cost)
- MedicareBlueSM PPO (Regional PPO)
- Medicare supplement

Questions?

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