



October 5, 2010

## Medical necessity review criteria for chemical dependency facilities policy revision

Effective December 1, 2010, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) is revising the policy for medical necessity review criteria for chemical dependency facilities. Blue Cross has added the pre-certification and concurrent care requirements for facilities **not** licensed by the State of Minnesota. The policy below is in addition to Bulletin P13-10 dated March 29, 2010.

### Medical necessity review criteria for chemical dependency facilities

To help assure that members receive the appropriate level of care for mental health and substance use disorder treatment, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross), as done with other medical/surgical services, requires certain pre-certification and concurrent review protocols.

Pre-certification and concurrent review applies to health services provided to members in fully insured and self-insured benefit plans, including Minnesota Health Care Programs, with the exception of Minnesota Senior Care Plus (MSC+), SecureBlue<sup>SM</sup> (HMO SNP), CareBlue<sup>SM</sup> (HMO SNP), Platinum Blue<sup>SM</sup> (Cost) and MedicareBlue<sup>SM</sup> PPO members. Medicare supplement benefit plans are also excluded from review. This also does not apply to court-ordered admissions to inpatient/residential treatment. Coverage for court-ordered mental health services is detailed in Minnesota Statute 62Q.535.

### Pre-certification requirements

Provider will obtain pre-certification from Blue Cross before admitting a member. If admission is emergent or after business hours, provider will obtain pre-certification within two (2) business days after the admission.

Provider shall obtain pre-certification by calling Blue Cross at **(651) 662-5270** or toll free at **1-800-528-0934**. Blue Cross will use criteria set forth in the Mihalik Group Medical Necessity Manual for Behavioral Health for non licensed State of Minnesota facilities or the Rule 25 Dimensions Criteria for State of Minnesota Rule 31 licensed facilities. The Level of Care Utilization System (LOCUS) and Child and Adolescent Services Intensity Instrument (CASII) criteria will be used for dual-diagnosis programs. Failure to provide evidence of medical necessity may result in claim denials as provider liability.

### Concurrent review requirements

Providers have a contractual obligation as noted in Chapter 4 of the online Blue Cross Provider Policy and Procedure Manual to adhere to care management programs. At the time of pre-certification a date will be established to conduct concurrent review. Concurrent review will include verification of medical necessity based on criteria set forth in the Mihalik Group Medical Necessity Manual for Behavioral Health for nonlicensed State of Minnesota facilities or the Rule 25 Dimensions Criteria for State of Minnesota Rule 31 licensed facilities. The Level of Care Utilization System (LOCUS) and Child and Adolescent Services Intensity Instrument (CASII) criteria will be used for dual-diagnosis programs. Failure to provide evidence of medical necessity may result in claim denials as provider liability.

### Questions?

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