



## Process change for uncomplicated laparoscopic cholecystectomy procedure

To ensure members receive treatment at the appropriate level of care, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) will evaluate and process facility claims for uncomplicated laparoscopic cholecystectomy procedures as outpatient beginning with services performed on or after July 1, 2010. Services for an uncomplicated laparoscopic cholecystectomy that are submitted as inpatient will be subject to retrospective medical review.

This new process will apply to health services provided to members in fully insured and self-insured benefit plans, including Minnesota Health Care Programs.

All of the following Medicare plans are exempt from this review process and providers need to follow Medicare coding procedures:

- Minnesota Senior Care Plus (MSC+)
- CareBlue<sup>SM</sup> (HMO)
- SecureBlue<sup>SM</sup> (HMO)
- Platinum Blue<sup>SM</sup> (Cost)
- MedicareBlue<sup>SM</sup> PPO (Regional PPO)
- Medicare supplement benefit plans (i.e. Senior Gold<sup>SM</sup>)

### Blue Cross Policy

No prior authorization is necessary for the laparoscopic cholecystectomy procedure. Blue Cross' decision to reimburse the uncomplicated laparoscopic cholecystectomy procedure as an outpatient service is based on and supported by Milliman Care Guidelines<sup>®</sup>.

Blue Cross will consider an inpatient admission appropriate for the uncomplicated laparoscopic cholecystectomy procedure only if there are post-operative complications that cannot be resolved including:

- Fever
- The inability to manage nausea and pain
- The inability to advance diet

A copy of the complete Milliman Care Guidelines<sup>®</sup> is available as part of an inpatient case review. 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**.