

Bulletin



March 10, 2010

Inpatient hospital concurrent review

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) are continually striving to improve the value of all health care services delivered to our members. Beginning in March 2010, Blue Cross will be placing registered nurses onsite at select hospitals.

The purpose of this implementation is to assist with transition of care needs and to help assure our members receive the appropriate level of care. Initially, only selected providers will be impacted by these procedural changes. Providers will be given advance notification and additional information concerning this process as the program expands throughout 2010.

Concurrent review will apply to inpatient hospital health services provided to members in fully insured and self-insured benefit plans as well as Government Programs. Minnesota Senior Care Plus (MSC+), CareBlueSM (HMO), SecureBlueSM (HMO), MedicareBlueSM PPO, Platinum BlueSM (Cost) and all other Medicare supplement benefit plans are excluded from review.

Definition

"Concurrent review" means ongoing and timely review during the member's inpatient stay to ensure that the admission meets established medical criteria and certifies the necessity, the appropriateness and the quality of services during an admission.

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. The concurrent review will include verification of medical necessity based on information gathered using evidence-based clinical guidelines to determine the appropriate level of care.

Questions?

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