



January 27, 2010

Blue Cross recognizes licensed acupuncturists as eligible practitioners

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) will now recognize licensed acupuncturists (LAc) as eligible practitioners. This applies to both independent acupuncturists and acupuncturists working under the supervision of a physician in a multidisciplinary clinic setting.

Independent acupuncturists

Independent acupuncturists interested in obtaining a participating provider agreement with Blue Cross should complete and return the Contract Request Form and the Minnesota Uniform Credentialing Application located on providers.bluecrossmn.com. Upon receipt, Blue Cross will evaluate each application to determine whether contracting with a particular provider would assist in meeting a specific network need. Contracting decisions will be made based on geographic location and current network composition.

Physician-supervised acupuncturists in a multidisciplinary clinic setting

Physician-supervised acupuncturists rendering services in a multidisciplinary clinic setting currently bill Blue Cross using the Type 1 National Provider Identifier (NPI) of the supervising physician. Effective **May 1, 2010**, Blue Cross will require all acupuncturists providing services at participating clinics to be credentialed. Once credentialed, the provider must then begin billing services under the Type 1 NPI of the acupuncturist.

To request credentialing from Blue Cross, acupuncturists must complete the Minnesota Uniform Credentialing Application located on providers.bluecrossmn.com. This information should be submitted to Blue Cross as soon as possible since Blue Cross requires an average of 60 days to complete credentialing.

Payment for services rendered by a licensed acupuncturist

Payment for all services provided and billed by licensed acupuncturists is subject to member benefits and medical necessity criteria as outlined in the Blue Cross Medical Policy III-01. As noted in the medical policy statement, these policies apply generally to all Blue Cross and Blue Plus commercial fully insured plans and products. Other products may have different coverage criteria that may not permit payment to independent licensed acupuncturists.

Blue Cross medical and behavioral health policies are available for your use and review on the Blue Cross 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.”

Public Program members are subject to coverage guidelines as outlined in the Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) provider manual.

Questions?

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