

# Bulletin



January 8, 2010

## 2010 Federal Employee Program change for mental health and substance abuse

Effective January 1, 2009, Federal Employee Program (FEP) members enrolled in both the Standard Option and Basic Option required a prior authorization for all outpatient mental health and substance abuse services before the first visit. Throughout 2009, when a prior authorization was not received, a courtesy request was sent to the provider.

### Change

Effective April 12, 2010, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus will no longer provide courtesy requests to providers notifying them of missing prior authorization notification. If a prior authorization is not received, the claim will deny as provider liability.

### Prior authorization

To request a prior authorization, complete the Minnesota Universal Outpatient Mental/Chemical Health Authorization Form that is available on [providers.bluecrossmn.com](http://providers.bluecrossmn.com). Select “forms and publications” and in the drop-down box, select “forms: prior authorization.”

Prior authorizations are not required for pharmacotherapy (medication management), the diagnostic assessment or psychological testing.

### Questions?

If you have questions regarding FEP members, please contact FEP customer service Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. at **(651) 662-5044** or toll free at **1-800-859-2128**.