

BULLETIN

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota
and Blue Plus

December 15, 2008

High-technology diagnostic imaging (HTDI) program

The current contract between American Imaging Management (AIM) and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus for high-technology diagnostic imaging (HTDI) radiology quality initiative (RQI) services is being terminated effective December 18, 2008. Information regarding the AIM termination was communicated on October 7, 2008, in Provider Bulletin P27-08 titled American Imaging Management contract terminating. The termination of this contract could impact the processes you currently follow today regarding data submission and decision support services for HTDI.

Key process changes

HTDI Ordering Providers are split into three categories: designated, non-designated ordering providers sending members to a designated service provider and non-designated ordering providers sending members to non-designated service providers.

- Designated ordering providers should continue using decision support at the point of care. These providers must suspend data transfers to AIM after December 18, 2008.
- Non-designated ordering providers sending members to designated servicing providers should continue using decision support at the point of service. These servicing providers must suspend data transfers to AIM after December 18, 2008.

For a designated provider listing, go to **bluecrossmn.com** and select “for health care providers” then under “tools and resources” select “high tech diagnostic imaging.”

- Non-designated ordering providers sending members to non-designated servicing providers must cease using AIM on December 18, 2008.

HTDI guidelines

All providers must follow the HTDI guidelines in the Medical and Behavioral Health Policy Manual:

[COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY ANGIOGRAPHY \(CTA\)
FOR EVALUATION OF CORONARY ARTERIES](#)

[COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY \(CT\) SCREENING FOR CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE](#)

[CT COLONOGRAPHY \(VIRTUAL COLONOSCOPY\) AS A SCREENING TEST FOR COLORECTAL
CANCER](#)

[FULL BODY CT SCANNING](#)

[MRI OF THE BREAST](#)

Please route this bulletin to other interested staff.

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[POSITIONAL MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING \(MRI\) \(STAND-UP, SEATED, UPRIGHT, WEIGHT-BEARING MRI\)](#)

[POSITRON EMISSION TOMOGRAPHY \(PET\)](#)

[SPIRAL CT SCREENING FOR LUNG CANCER](#)

These HTDI guidelines can be found at:

www.bluecrossmn.com/public/providers/htdocs/medical_policy_statement.html

Members covered by the program

To date, this program includes the following Blue Cross lines of business in the Minnesota service area and surrounding counties in Wisconsin, South Dakota, North Dakota and Iowa:

- Blue Cross fully insured members (not including First Plan, Service Co-ops, FEP or CCS)
- Blue Plus government programs including Medicare and Medicaid — SecureBlue, CareBlue, Blue Advantage (PMAP/GAMC & MSC/MSC+), MinnesotaCare
- South Country Health Alliance (SCHA) including Medicare and Medicaid — SeniorCare Complete, AbilityCare, PMAP/GAMC, MSC+, MinnesotaCare until January 1, 2009.

The program *does not* include MedicareBlueSM PPO, VantageBlue or plans where Blue Cross is the Medicare supplemental payer.

Imaging services included in the HTDI program

The program covers the following elective outpatient HTDI procedures:

- CT and CTA scans
- MRI/MRA services
- PET scans
- Nuclear cardiology

Designated and non-designated providers defined

Designated Providers are ordering or servicing providers who have been approved by Blue Cross as exempt from our vendor-based process. Designated providers must have:

- Appropriateness criteria based on American College of Cardiology and the American College of Radiology, or other clinically accepted appropriateness guidelines
- A software-based decision support system in place – preferably embedded within electronic medical record
- The ability to electronically gather and report decision support data on a daily basis

Non-designated providers work with our vendor, AIM, through December 18, 2008.

- The AIM decision support process is named Radiology Quality Initiative (RQI)
- The RQI process is based upon criteria and guidelines from nationally recognized organizations

Contact us

For more information, please e-mail networks@bluecrossmn.com