

PROVIDER BULLETIN

PROVIDER INFORMATION



May 25, 2016

Change in Medical Policy on Anesthesia Services Related to Routine Upper and/or Lower Gastrointestinal Procedures

As part of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota (Blue Cross) Health Services continual evaluation of standards of care, Medical Policy II-93, Anesthesia Services for Routine Upper and/or Lower Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Procedures, will be inactivated on July 18, 2016.

The policy inactivation impacts general and monitored anesthesia care (MAC). Claims for Anesthesia for routine upper and/or lower gastrointestinal procedures will process according to subscriber benefits.

Intravenous sedation (“conscious sedation”) ordered and administered by the physician performing the gastrointestinal endoscopic procedure is still considered medically necessary. Reimbursement for the service and supplies for such intravenous sedation is included in the payment for the endoscopic procedure.

This medical policy change impacts commercial products only.

Reminder

Policy changes are communicated in the Upcoming Medical Policy Notifications section of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Medical and Behavioral Health Policy website. The Upcoming Medical Policy Notifications section lists new, revised, or inactivated policies approved by the Blue Cross Medical and Behavioral Health Policy Committee and are effective 50 days from the date they were posted. To access the website, go to **providers.bluecrossmn.com**. Under Tools & Resources, select “Medical Policy”, and read/accept the Blue Cross Medical Policy Statement. The Upcoming Medical Policy Notifications section can be found by selecting the “+” (plus) sign next to “Medical and Behavioral Health Policies.”

Questions?

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