

PROVIDER BULLETIN

PROVIDER INFORMATION



April 28, 2017

Changes in Medical Policy IV-107 Hip Arthroplasty (Hip Replacement) and Hip Resurfacing

Effective June 19, 2017, there will be criteria changes to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota (Blue Cross) medical policy IV-107, Hip Arthroplasty (Hip Replacement) and Hip Resurfacing.

As part of Blue Cross' continual evaluation of standards of care, policy criteria on total hip arthroplasty (THA) for advanced hip joint disease are being revised as follows:

- Criteria addressing grade 3 or grade 4 cartilage damage (based on the Kellgren-Lawrence or Modified Outerbridge Classification Systems) due to osteoarthritis or post-traumatic arthritis, as well as criteria addressing advanced rheumatoid arthritis, will be combined.
- The combined criteria will require conservative non-surgical therapy prior to THA for advanced joint disease, including medical management and physical therapy, unless the patient is unable to complete physical therapy due to progressively worsening pain and disability.
- When physical therapy cannot be completed, the case will be reviewed on an individual basis by an internal physician reviewer.

Evidence-based clinical practice guidelines and position statements from various specialty societies, including the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS), recommend an adequate trial of nonsurgical treatment for patients with advanced hip joint disease prior to THA, independent of disease stage.

This medical policy change impacts commercial lines of business only.

Reminder

Policy changes are communicated in the Upcoming Medical Policy Notifications section of the Blue Cross 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.