

# PROVIDER BULLETIN

## PROVIDER INFORMATION



December 14, 2017

### **Commercial Prior Authorization Requirement for Outpatient Services for Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Speech Therapy**

Effective January 1, 2018, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) will change prior authorization (PA) requirements for Outpatient services for Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Speech Therapy.

The following outpatient therapy services for commercial products will change from the current PA requirement after 20 visits per calendar year to require a PA after the indicated visit limit:

- Occupational Therapy:
  - Fully Insured: PA after 40 visits per calendar year
  - Self Insured: PA after 40 visits per calendar year or per Contract Requirement
- Physical Therapy:
  - Fully Insured: PA after 40 visits per calendar year
  - Self Insured: PA after 40 visits per calendar year or per Contract Requirement
- Speech Therapy:
  - Fully Insured: PA after 50 visits per calendar year
  - Self Insured: PA after 50 visits per calendar year or per Contract Requirement

As stewards of healthcare expenditures for our subscribers, we are charged with ensuring they receive the highest quality, evidence based care. One method for doing so is through the PA process. The primary purpose of the PA process is to ensure that evidence based care is provided to our subscribers, driving quality, safety, and affordability.

Providers can verify subscriber eligibility through the Availity portal solution, on their website at **Availity.com**.

#### **Products Impacted**

- This PA program only applies to Commercial Products.
- These changes do not impact subscribers who have coverage through Prepaid Medical Assistance Program (PMAP), MinnesotaCare, SecureBlue (MSHO), Minnesota Senior Care Plus (MSC+) or Federal Employee Program (FEP).

#### **Services that require Prior Authorization/Pre-Certification/Notification**

Only those services on the PA lists require prior authorization. Do not request authorization for services not on the PA lists. Follow the steps below to review the list of services that require a PA.

1. Access the 'Provider Section' of the Blue Cross website at **providers.bluecrossmn.com**
2. Under 'Tools and Resources' select 'Medical policy' then acknowledge the Acceptance Statement.
3. Click on the '+' next to 'Utilization Management' and under the 'Precertification Lists' select the 'Commercial Pre-Certification/Pre-Authorization List.'

#### **Questions?**

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