December 14, 2017

Clarification to MHCP Prior Authorization Requirements for Nusinersen (Spinraza™)

Effective February 1, 2018, the following changes will be made to the prior authorization (PA) list for Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP):

Nusinersen (Spinraza™) reviews will be performed using MHCP criteria.

Products Impacted
- This change applies to subscribers that have coverage through Blue Advantage Prepaid Medical Assistance Program (PMAP), MinnesotaCare (MNCare) and Minnesota Senior Care Plus (MSC+).
- This change **does not** apply to Federal Employee Program (FEP), Platinum Blue, Medicare Advantage or SecureBlue (MSHO) as those lines of business have separate medical policy requirements.

Submitting a Medical Drug PA Request to Blue Cross
For PMAP, MNCare and MSC+ products, PA approval is based on MHCP criteria. Before submitting a PA request, Providers must check MHCP and/or Medicare criteria and **attach all required clinical documentation** with the request including documentation of previous therapies tried and evidence of symptom improvement using the drug. MHCP criteria can be accessed at:
http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs16_175111#

To review MHCP and Medicare criteria:
- Go to **providers.bluecrossmn.com**
- Under 'Tools and Resources' select 'Medical policy' and then acknowledge the Acceptance Statement.
- Click on the '+' next to 'Medical and Behavioral Health Policies' to locate links to the MHCP Manual Pharmacy PA Criteria and Medicare Coverage CMS links.

PA requests will be reviewed when patient-specific, relevant medical documentation has been provided supporting the medical necessity of the drug. Failure to submit required information may result in review delays (if outreach is needed to obtain missing clinical information) or a denial of the request due insufficient information.

Providers can submit an electronic medical drug (ePA) request:
- Using Online via our free Availity provider portal
- Using a NCPDP standard XML file feed to Blue Cross through CenterX, via an integrated Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system. To learn how to do this, providers should contact their EMR vendor for assistance.
- Using the appropriate Government Program pre-authorization/pre-certification form available online at **providers.bluecrossmn.com**.
- Out of state, non-contracted providers can use the process above or submit the PA request to Blue Cross using their own form (secure fax: 651.662.2810).

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