

PROVIDER BULLETIN

PROVIDER INFORMATION



August 3, 2020

Site of Service for Selected Outpatient Procedures: XI-03 Medical Policy Update

Effective October 5, 2020, an update will be made to the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) medical policy, XI-03: Site of Service for Selected Outpatient Procedures.

Selected outpatient Hernia, Gynecology and Orthopedic Arthroscopy & Foot procedures (listed below) will be added to this medical policy and must be performed in a non-hospital outpatient setting – such as an Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC). Claims will not be eligible for reimbursement in a hospital facility unless certain medical, geographic or contractual criteria are met.

This policy continues to include the ENT and Upper & Lower Gastrointestinal Endoscopy procedures (also listed below), which were added in 2019.

A clarification has been added to the policy stating that the use of an inpatient hospital facility solely for one of the procedures included in the Site of Service medical policy is considered not medically necessary.

Many specialists in the Blue Cross network have started redirecting patients to an ASC for these services when clinically appropriate. Performance of these procedures outside the hospital has shown evidence of safe, high quality outcomes at a lower cost, while maintaining an excellent patient experience.

Procedures administered in a hospital outpatient facility must meet medical policy criteria to be eligible for reimbursement. Post-service audits will be conducted for services taking place in a hospital setting using the following information to ensure policy criteria are met:

- Documentation of medical necessity to receive the procedure at an outpatient hospital setting.

Geographic exclusions for post-service audits include:

- Services for patients living greater than 25 miles from an in-network ASC or office performing these procedures are excluded from this program.
- Hospital outpatient facilities that do not have an in-network ASC or office performing these procedures within 25 miles of the hospital are excluded from this program.

Please check the subscriber's benefits and confirm the **in-network** site of service.

List of Impacted Procedures Added to Medical Policy (Commercial and Minnesota Health Care Programs, effective October 5, 2020):

HERNIA	
Procedure	CPT Codes
Hernia Repair	49505, 49585, 49650, 49651, 49652, 49654

GYNECOLOGY	
Procedures	CPT Codes
Cervical Conization	57522
Endometrial Ablation	58353
Hysteroscopy	58558, 58563, 58565

ORTHOPEDIC ARTHROSCOPY & FOOT	
Procedures	CPT Codes
Arthroscopy Ankle	29891-29899
Arthroscopy Elbow	29830, 29834-29838
Arthroscopy Hip	29860-29863, 29914-29916
Arthroscopy Knee	29870, 29873-29875, 29876, 29877, 29879-29889
Arthroscopy Shoulder	29805-29807, 29819-29828
Arthroscopy Wrist	29840, 29844-29848
Foot & Toe Surgery	28289, 28291, 28292, 28296-28299, 28285

The site of service medical policy for the following procedures previously only applied to Commercial lines of business. As of October 5, 2020, the policy will also apply to Minnesota Health Care Programs:

GI	
Procedure	CPT Codes
Upper & Lower Gastrointestinal Endoscopy	43235, 43239, 43249, 45378, 45380, 45384, 45385

ENT	
Procedures	CPT Codes
Ear, Nose & Throat	21320, 30140, 30520, 69436, 69631

Products Impacted

All procedures included in the X1-03 medical policy will apply to the following Blue Cross products:

- Fully and Self-Insured commercial lines of business
- Minnesota Health Care Program subscribers to Families and Children (formerly Prepaid Medical Assistance) and MinnesotaCare (MNCare).

Predetermination Process for Providers:

Providers may submit a predetermination form via fax prior to treatment if the subscriber is experiencing unique clinical circumstances not outlined in the medical policy that may dictate surgery taking place in an outpatient hospital setting. Predeterminations are **not** required and do not guarantee payment.

Reminder Regarding Medical Policy Updates & Changes:

Medical policy changes are communicated in the Upcoming Medical Policy Notifications section of the Blue Cross Medical and Behavioral Health Policy website. The Upcoming Policies section lists new, revised, or inactivated policies approved by the Blue Cross Medical and Behavioral Health Policy Committee and are effective at minimum 45 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
- Select the “+” (plus) sign next to “Medical and Behavioral Health Policies” to see the Upcoming Medical Policy Notifications section

Questions?

If you have questions, please contact provider services at **(651) 662-5200** or **1-800-262-0820** for Commercial Members or **(866) 518-8448** for MHCP Members.