

# PROVIDER BULLETIN

## PROVIDER INFORMATION



November 1, 2024

### Change to Management of Specific Specialty Utilization Management (UM) Programs

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) is committed to providing our members with access to high-quality health care that is consistent with evidence-based, nationally recognized clinical criteria and guidelines. Blue Cross will be implementing changes to the following specialty UM programs:

- Musculoskeletal Management (Spine, Joint, Interventional Pain Management)
- Cardiology and Radiology (Advanced Imaging)

Effective January 6, 2025, Blue Cross will manage these specialty UM programs internally for Commercial Fully-Insured and Self-Insured (buy-up), along with Medicare Advantage products. eviCore Healthcare will no longer be managing these specific programs. Authorizations that have been approved by eviCore prior to January 6, 2025, will be valid until the end date of the authorization. No further action is required by the provider.

eviCore Healthcare will continue to manage Lab (molecular and genetic testing), Radiation Therapy, and Sleep Management. For Medicare Advantage ONLY, eviCore will also continue to manage Post Acute Care and DME.

**Musculoskeletal, Cardiology and Radiology (Advanced Imaging) and specialty UM programs will be expanded to Minnesota Health Care Program (MHCP) products, including PMAP, MinnesotaCare, MSC+, and MSHO for dates of service beginning February 1, 2025. Providers will be able to start submitting authorizations for MHCP members beginning January 15, 2025.**

The specific services requiring prior authorization and the corresponding evidence-based guidelines for each service can be found at <https://www.bluecrossmn.com/sites/default/files/DAM/2024-10/imaging-msk-availability-auth-code-list-103024.pdf>. Providers should continue to use Availity Essentials to determine if an authorization is required, review related clinical guidelines, and submit prior authorization requests.

Blue Cross will be hosting web-based training sessions in December to demonstrate the enhanced prior authorization submission process on Availity Essentials. A recorded online seminar (post-live training), documented process, and FAQ will be added to Availity Essentials to view at your convenience. Please watch the provider resources page at [bluecrossmn.com/providers](https://bluecrossmn.com/providers) for updates.

#### Products Impacted

- Commercial – Fully Insured
- Commercial – Self-Insured (buy-up available to groups as of January 2025)
- Medicare Advantage
- Minnesota Health Care Programs (Children & Families, MNCare, MSC+, MSHO) **Effective February 1, 2025**

#### Questions?

For questions regarding MHCP subscribers, please contact MHCP Provider Services at **1-866-518-8448**. For all other lines of business, please contact Provider Services at **651-662-5200** or **1-800-262-0820**.

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