

**PROVIDER BULLETIN
#17-2014**

TO: Participating hospitals

FROM: Don Liss, M.D.
Vice President, Medical Management

DATE: December 2, 2014

SUBJECT: Non-emergent outpatient radiation therapy precertification requirements

Independence Blue Cross (Independence) is introducing new precertification requirements for non-emergent outpatient radiation therapy services for all commercial and Medicare Advantage HMO and PPO members. Independence will work with CareCore National, LLC (CareCore), an independent specialty benefit management company, to manage precertification requests for non-emergent outpatient radiation therapy services.

Services that require precertification

Effective January 1, 2015, ordering physicians must contact CareCore to obtain precertification for elective non-emergent outpatient radiation therapy services. Below is a list of radiation therapy procedures that will require precertification*:

- external beam, including 2D, 3D conformal, intensity modulated (IMRT), tomotherapy, image guided (IGRT), stereotactic body (SBRT), and stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) radiation therapy;
- brachytherapy, including low-dose rate (LDR), high-dose rate (HDR), and outpatient intra-operative techniques (IORT);
- hyperthermia;
- neutron radiotherapy;
- radio-labeled drugs, with the exception of Ra 223 (Xofigo[®]) and immunotherapy using Zevalin[®] and Bexxar[®].

**This list of procedures is subject to change and will be outlined in the forthcoming policy.*

Please note that this precertification requirement does not apply to members ages 19 and younger, Federal Employee Program members, or Comprehensive Major Medical members.

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We encourage you to share this information with appropriate members of your staff.

In April 2015, precertification requests for non-emergent outpatient radiation therapy will also be reviewed for medical necessity. A medical policy will be forthcoming that will include a list of all the codes requiring precertification through CareCore as well as a link to the guidelines that will be used to determine medical necessity.

As a reminder, precertification requests for all high-technology diagnostic imaging services (e.g., CT, MRI, PET) will continue to be handled through the current process by AIM Specialty Health[®], an independent company.

Requesting precertification

To initiate precertification for non-emergent outpatient radiation therapy, a new option will be added to the NaviNet[®] web portal within the Authorizations transaction that will link to CareCore's provider portal. You can also access their provider portal directly by going to www.carecorenational.com. Once on CareCore's portal, you will be required to create a login and password. This login will be used every time you request precertification through CareCore. If you already have access to CareCore's portal, please use your current login information.

For precertification requests for dates of service on or after January 1, 2015, you can call CareCore directly at 1-866-686-2649 or submit the request via NaviNet **starting December 16, 2014**.

CareCore will host the following tutorial webinars to assist you in using their portal:

- December 10, 2014, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- December 12, 2014, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- December 12, 2014, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

If you are interested in participating, please email your contact information along with your preferred session date and time to provider_communications@ibx.com.

More information

If you have questions about any of these requirements, you can contact your Network Coordinator, call Customer Service at 1-800-ASK-BLUE (1-800-275-2583), or call CareCore at 1-866-686-2649.

NaviNet is a registered trademark of NaviNet Inc., an independent company.

AIM is an independent company contracted with Independence to perform precertification for select services for most managed care members.

We encourage you to share this information with appropriate members of your staff.

Independence Blue Cross offers products directly, through its subsidiaries Keystone Health Plan East and QCC Insurance Company, and with Highmark Blue Shield — independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.