March 18, 2013

New Hysterectomy Surgery Medical Policy

What is the change?
Premera is implementing a new hysterectomy surgery policy on May 19, 2013. The policy outlines medical necessity criteria for hysterectomy procedures. This policy references Milliman Care Guidelines® but includes a number of modifications and additions to these guidelines based on a literature review and interviews with several community gynecology groups.

Why the change?
We are implementing this policy to:
• Ensure the safety and best outcome for our members by using evidence-based best practice guidelines so that hysterectomy surgery is performed when medically necessary
• Help reduce long-term complications that can occur related to unnecessary hysterectomy surgery
• Inform our members about appropriate alternatives to hysterectomy surgery that may be just as effective, are less invasive and may have fewer short- or long-term complications.

When is it effective?
The policy, 7.01.548 Hysterectomy Surgery, is effective May 19, 2013. It was announced in the February 2013 edition of Network News (mailed Feb. 19, 2013) and became available in the Medical Policies section of the Premera website on Feb. 21, 2013.

What do I need to know?
Hysterectomy surgery with or without salpingo-oophorectomy is considered medically necessary for diagnosed cancer of the uterus, cervix, ovaries, fallopian tubes or endometrium, and for specific diagnostic gynecologic indications/conditions, when certain specific criteria are met.

Hysterectomy surgery is covered for the following conditions and under specific circumstances where it has been demonstrated to improve outcomes, per Milliman Care Guidelines: abnormal or dysfunctional uterine bleeding; symptomatic pelvic organ relaxation (e.g., uterine prolapsed, cystourethrocele, rectocele); pelvic pain or infection (e.g., endometriosis, pelvic inflammatory diseases); uterine leiomyomata (fibroids); and complications related to childbirth (e.g., uterine rupture, intractable post-partum hemorrhage uncontrolled by conservative therapy).

What action do I need to take?
Hysterectomy procedures will be reviewed for medical necessity. We recommend a pre-service review (benefit advisory) to ensure the services are covered. Services that are not medically necessary will not be covered.

Additional Support:
• Visit premera.com/provider, Medical Policies under “Quick Links” to view the entire medical policy.
• For claims related questions, call Customer Service at 800-722-1471, weekdays, 8 am – 5 pm.
• For News Brief questions, contact Physician and Provider Relations at 877-342-5258, option 4.
• February 2012 Network News article  https://www.premera.com/wa/provider/news/