

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<sup>®</sup> 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. Please check our provider website at [premera.com/wa/provider](http://premera.com/wa/provider) for updates to services or procedures that are subject to the prior authorization process.

### Additional Support:

- Visit [premera.com/provider](http://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/>