

NEWS *Brief* business information and news from Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska

Sept. 17, 2014

Prior Authorization Required for Advanced Imaging

What is the change?

As part of our efforts to maintain a sustainable healthcare system and help our members receive high-quality, cost-effective care consistent with clinical best practices, Premera Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alaska is implementing prior authorization for advanced imaging. Currently, AIM Specialty Health provides quality reviews for advanced imaging services.

When is it effective?

For services Jan. 1, 2015 and after, prior authorization is required. If AIM determines a service meets medical necessity criteria, the service will be authorized and promptly paid by Premera. If a service does not meet medical necessity criteria, the requested procedure will be denied and an order number will not be given. It's important to note that if prior authorization is not obtained, we will conduct a retrospective medical necessity review, and services that are not medically necessary will not be covered.

What is the impact?

Services requiring prior authorization include:

- CT/CTA
- MRI/MRA/MRS/fMRI
- Nuclear cardiology
- PET scans
- Resting transthoracic echocardiography
- Stress echocardiography
- Transesophageal echocardiography

What do I need to know?

A full list of CPT® codes will be on the Alaska provider website at premera.com/ak/provider/utilization-review/advanced-imaging/.

If you have not registered with AIM, visit aimspecialtyhealth.com to create an account. If you have an existing account and currently request pre-service quality reviews, the process remains the same. To initiate an order, you can contact AIM Specialty Health online or via telephone:

- Online: aimspecialtyhealth.com
- Phone: 866-666-0776

For additional information about advanced imaging prior authorization process please contact your Provider Network Representative.



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