
F.Y.I.

For Your Information



MASSACHUSETTS

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts is an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Date: January 1, 2009
To: The Clinicians Who Refer Our Members for or Perform Neuropsychological Testing
Subject: Prior Authorization Will Be Required for Neuropsychological Testing

Prior Authorization Will Be Required for Neuropsychological Testing

To help ensure that our members have access to medically necessary neuropsychological testing while maintaining the affordability of health care, BCBSMA will require prior authorization for all neuropsychological testing services. This prior authorization requirement applies to:

- Members of our HMO plans as of May 1, 2009
- Members of our POS plans (for both in-network and out-of-network services) as of May 1, 2009
- Members of our PPO plans (for both in-network and out-of-network services) as of July 1, 2009.

For greater thoroughness and accuracy, we recommend that the referring clinician and the clinician performing the service collaborate on completion of the authorization request form.

After the dates above, all neuropsychological testing authorization requests for HMO, POS, and PPO plans should be requested via the *Neuropsychological Testing Request Form*. For instructions on how to obtain a copy of this form, see the resources section at the end of this *F.Y.I.* Authorization can no longer be requested via the POS device.

We will consider authorization of ADHD testing only when there is a well-documented problem of differential diagnosis for which neuropsychological testing can offer a clear resolution. Neuropsychological testing for the routine diagnosis of ADHD is not regarded as medically necessary and therefore will not be authorized. Testing primarily for educational or vocational purposes is not covered.

InterQual Criteria Will Be Used for Prior Authorization Determinations

BCBSMA will use InterQual criteria in guiding our medical necessity prior authorization determinations for neuropsychological services. All medical necessity criteria are written for the majority of people with a given condition, and each patient's circumstances are individually considered. BCBSMA will actively engage the neuropsychological community in seeking input on this process.

Prior authorization requests will be approved within the following ranges based on medical necessity:

Adults/adolescents: **6-10 units**, depending on the complexity of testing needed
Children: **8-12 units**, depending on the complexity of testing needed

The InterQual criteria will be available on our website later this spring; see the Resources section of this *F.Y.I.* to learn how to access it.

Reminder About In-Network Services

As a reminder, HMO members are required to receive services from HMO network providers and POS and PPO members are required to receive services from their network providers to be covered at an in-network level. For members of our HMO plan:

If you are a:	Then please:
Referring provider	Ensure that you refer members of HMO products to providers in our HMO network.
Clinician performing neuropsychological testing	Submit claims for members of our HMO products only if you participate in our Managed Care Behavioral Health network.

Resources

To:	Then:
Obtain the <i>Neuropsychological Testing Request Form</i> <i>(available April 1, 2009)</i>	Log on to www.bluecrossma.com/provider and select: Resource Center> Forms> Authorization Forms. You may complete the online form electronically, but you must print and fax it to BCBSMA at 1-888-641-5199 . OR Call our Fax-on-Demand service at 1-888-633-7654 and request document 875 . For BCBSMA and EDS employees & dependents only, fax to 1-888-608-3693 .
Contact your Provider Relations Manager	Behavioral Health Clinicians and Physicians can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-mail behavioralhealth@bcbsma.com • Call 1-800-316-BLUE (2583), Option 3 Physicians can: Call 1-800-316-BLUE (2583) , Option 4
View the InterQual Criteria referenced on the reverse of this <i>F.Y.I.</i>	Go to our website in April 2009 and select: Manage Your Business> Medical Review Resources