

Blue Shield Report

A Newsletter for
Professional Providers and
their Staff Members

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OUR WEB ADDRESS:
<http://www.bcbsks.com>

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Acknowledgement:

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Reminders

OCR Claim Reminders for Paper Submissions

Only submit up to four diagnoses in Box 21.

Only one individual provider's services should be submitted on a single claim (Box 24J). Multiple providers, even when part of a group, will need to submit on separate claim forms.

Signature Required on Provider Documentation

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBSKS) Policy Memo No. 1 (Section X) was revised for 2009 to specify that typed provider documentation must be authenticated (signed). To clarify, providers must sign the records. Rubber stamp signatures are not permissible; however, electronic signatures are. The signature must be legible and contain at least the first initial and full last name.

This provision does not affect stamped signatures on claims, which remain permissible.

Updates

CA 125

Effective immediately, when billing CA 125 (86304), providers will not need to supply medical records with the claim. The service will be paid based on medical necessity and reviewed on a post-pay basis.

Consultation Services versus Other Evaluation and Management (E/M) Visits

The intent of a consultation service is that a physician or qualified non-physician practitioner, such as an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) or Physician Assistant (PA), or other appropriate source is asking another physician or qualified ARNP/PA for advice, opinion, a recommendation, suggestion, direction, or counsel, etc. in evaluating or treating a patient because that individual has expertise in a specific medical area beyond the requesting professional's knowledge

All the criteria below must be met for BCBSKS to allow a service as a consultation:

- A consultation service is distinguished from other evaluation and management (E/M) visits because it is provided by a physician or qualified ARNP/PA, whose opinion or advice regarding evaluation and/or management of a specific problem is requested by another physician or other appropriate source. The qualified ARNP/PA may perform consultation services within the scope of his/her practice and licensure requirements.
- A request for a consultation from an appropriate source (i.e., the reason for a consultation service) shall be documented by the consultant in the patient's medical record and included in the plan of care of the requesting physician or qualified ARNP/PA.
- After the consultation is provided, the consultant shall prepare a written report of his/her findings and recommendations, which shall be provided to the referring physician.

Consultations may be billed based on time if the counseling/coordination of care constitutes more than 50 percent of the face-to-face encounter between the physician or qualified ARNP/PA and the patient. The preceding requirements (request, evaluation [or counseling/coordination] and written report) shall also be met when consultation is based on time for counseling/coordination.

LDL Cholesterol

Should read: LDL cholesterol can be determined from the lipid panel (80061). Direct measurement of LDL cholesterol (83721) is not necessary unless the fasting triglyceride level is greater than 300. Effective with claims received March 1, 2009 and after, if there is no diagnosis of hypertriglyceridemia (272.1), direct measure of LDL cholesterol billed with a lipid panel will be denied not medically necessary and waiver applied.

Medical Review Web Changes

Since the publication of Blue Shield Report S-04-08, the following new/revised medical policies have been posted to our Web site:

- Acoustic Pharyngometers & SNAP Testing
- Artificial Intervertebral Disc: Cervical Spine
- Artificial Intervertebral Disc: Lumbar Spine
- Automated Point-of-Care Devices for Nerve Conduction Testing
- Balloon Sinuplasty for Treatment of Chronic Sinusitis
- Cardioverter - Defibrillators
- Computed Tomography to Detect Coronary Artery Calcification
- Continuous Glucose Monitoring System
- Contrast-Enhanced Computed Tomography Angiography (CTA) for Coronary Artery Evaluation
- CTA and MRA of the Chest (excluding the Heart)
- CTA and MRA of the Head, Neck, Abdomen, Pelvis and Extremities
- Electromyography (EMG) Nerve Conduction Studies (NCS) and Other Electrodiagnostic (EDX) Related Services
- Functional Neuromuscular Stimulation (FNS) to Provide Ambulation
- Intra-articular Hyaluronan Injections for Osteoarthritis of the Knee
- Radiofrequency Ablation of Miscellaneous Solid Tumors Excluding Liver Tumors
- Rhinomanometry & Acoustic/Optical Rhinometry
- Serum Antibodies for the Diagnosis of Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- Vagus Nerve Stimulation
- Wound Care: Skin Substitutes and Growth Factors
- Xolair Prior Authorization Criteria

Pharmaceuticals

BCBSKS Supports Electronic Prescribing

Effective January 1, 2009, BCBSKS has made member eligibility, drug formulary and patient medication history information available for electronic prescribing. This will cover approximately 400,000 members who have BCBSKS prescription drug benefits.

The use of electronic prescribing can benefit your patients and practice by improving patient safety and quality of care. It can reduce medication errors and adverse drug events related to illegible handwritten prescriptions or oral miscommunications. Through electronic prescribing, prescribers can access the patient's medication history to verify compliance and reduce duplication of therapy.

Electronic prescribing reduces the time spent on phone calls and call backs to pharmacies, reduces time spent faxing prescriptions to pharmacies, and can automate the prescription renewal request and authorization process. Access to the patient's formulary can increase the use of generic and formulary brand prescriptions and reduce the patient's drug costs.

More information about electronic prescribing can be found at the following Web sites or by contacting your practice management or electronic health record vendor.

www.ehealthinitiative.org/news/2008-10-07.msp . A Clinician's Guide to Electronic Prescribing

www.surescripts.com/get-connected.aspx?ptype=physician . Get Your Practice Connected; a list of certified electronic prescribing vendors

www.surescripts.com/participant.aspx?ptype=physician . Participating Pharmacies Activated in Your Area

www.cms.hhs.gov/pqri/downloads/pqrieprescribingfactsheet.pdf . Introduction to E-Prescribing Incentive

Formulary Update

Prime Therapeutics updates the BCBSKS formulary (preferred drug list) on a quarterly basis.

The most current update can be viewed and printed by clicking on the link below:

https://www.myrxhealth.com/MyRxHealth/forms/KS_Alpha_Drug_List.pdf

A searchable version of the formulary is available at:

<https://www.myrxhealth.com/MyRxHealth/app?service=external&page=myrx:FindDrugsPlanSelector&sp=SKSBCBS&sp=SSAMST>