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October is . . .

Breast Cancer Awareness Month
Reminder

Shingles (Zostavax) Vaccination Coverage

Medicare Part D plans cover the shingles vaccine. The amount of cost-sharing (money the patient has to pay) for vaccination varies according to the patient’s plan.

Medicare Part B DOES NOT COVER the shingles vaccine. This means that a Plan 65 Supplement policy will not cover it either. If your patient has private insurance or Medicaid, the plan may or may not cover the vaccine; contact the patient’s plan to confirm coverage.

Kinesio Taping

As noted in the Blue Shield Report S-9-11 dated September 27, 2011, when billing Kinesio taping, the service should be coded as 97039 with a description of “Kinesio taping” in the narrative field, 2400 Loop NTE segment with qualifier ADD electronically, or in box 19 of a paper claim. This service is considered experimental/investigational, and is a provider write-off unless, as stated in Policy Memo No. 1, a written waiver of liability is obtained by the provider prior to the service being rendered.

Saliva Testing

Originally published in the December 2009 Blue Shield Report S-17-09, this article is a reminder that laboratory testing accomplished through the use of saliva is currently considered experimental/investigational. A Limited Patient Waiver should be obtained from the patient prior to testing. Modifier GA should be appended to the procedure code when a waiver is kept on file for the service in question. Remember, as stated in Policy Memo No. 1: “When a contracting provider uses a non-contracting provider (either in or out-of-state), the contracting provider must bill for all services. If the non-contracting provider bills the member or BCBSKS, the contracting provider will be required to hold the member harmless.”

Updates

Like us on Facebook!

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas is now on Facebook! Find our page at www.facebook.com/BCBSKS.

We plan to use our Facebook page to share health and wellness tips, company news, community events and health insurance information with our members and anyone who “likes” us.

Check us out and click the “Like” button if you like what you see!
BCBSKS Claims Processing System Undergoing Update

NOTICE
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas is updating components of the claims processing system. Until final implementation, some claims may not process in accordance with medical policy. If a claim has not processed according to the policy, please submit a request for retrospective review as outlined in Policy Memo No. 1 for Professional Providers and the Policies and Procedures for Institutional Providers.

Coordination of Benefit (COB) Balancing and HIPAA 5010

A primary enhancement of HIPAA 5010 included updates made to the COB, also known as secondary claims balancing. These updates allow for efficiencies in claims processing with no manual interventions that cause delays in adjudication.

By submitting all secondary claims electronically, you are helping to lower administrative costs for your practice as well as BCBSKS. During regular maintenance on August 19, 2012, EDI made some adjustments for COB claims balancing.

When submitting secondary claims, all primary remittance advice information must be submitted. The secondary claim must balance. If remittance information is omitted, the claim will be out of balance, causing the claim to reject on the 999 or 277CA acknowledgement.

EDI encourages the thorough review of each 999 and 277CA after each transmission.

Please contact the EDI Help Desk if you have any questions at 1-800-472-6481, option 1.

New Directions Outpatient Behavioral Health Request Just Got Easier

WebPass is a secure online service from New Directions which allows providers and office staff to check client eligibility and benefits of New Directions' members, request outpatient treatment, contact New Directions Provider Relations and more. There are several tutorials available on www.ndbh.com. No log-in. No problem. Download the Access Request Form located at https://webpass.ndbh.com/ or call the Clinical Support Coordinators at 913-982-8185 to have your request processed by phone. Once your user information is entered into the system we are available to talk you through your first WebPass Outpatient Treatment Request (OTR) submission from start to finish.

The WebPass OTR process can provide approval seconds after the request is submitted. Once logged into WebPass, search for the client by name and date of birth, select the client and click the appropriate clinical information boxes for the patient and submit. The system identifies any errors to reduce frustration and to simplify the treatment requests. You will receive instant notification on the status of your request after submission.

If additional information is needed for the OTR, there are two convenient options to provide the additional information. Option 1) allows submission of the additional information through the Web site, which is the preferred option. Click the web button and the additional questions will appear in a pop-up box for you to respond. Option 2) If you are unable to submit the response to the questions via the Web site, simply click the fax button to have the questions faxed to you.
CAQH and BCBSKS

On April 19, 2012, CAQH announced that one million healthcare providers are now using the Universal Provider Datasource (UPD). This enables physicians and other healthcare professionals in all 50 states and the District of Columbia to enter their professional and demographic information free-of-charge into a secure database and authorize which healthcare organizations access their information. Regular updates by providers keep the information complete and current.

CAQH estimates that today providers using UPD save approximately $135 million a year while decreasing duplicative paperwork and administrative burden across the healthcare system. Growing use of UPD by providers and healthcare organizations is helping to address these problems and improve coordination of efforts.

BCBSKS is committed to utilizing UPD for all credentialing and recredentialing activities to support reducing the administrative burden. BCBSKS encourages all providers to use the CAQH electronic version in order to reduce paperwork and save time. There will be more information to come in future newsletters as we promote the UPD electronic version.

If you need some assistance or have any questions, please contact the credentialing department at 785-291-7084.

Influenza Virus Diagnostic Testing and Treatment in the Outpatient Setting

The clinical presentation of patients with uncomplicated influenza virus infection includes: abrupt onset of fever, cough, sore throat, myalgias, arthralgias, chills, headache, and fatigue. Most patients with a clinical illness consistent with uncomplicated influenza, do not require influenza diagnostic testing or treatment with antiviral drugs.

Rapid influenza diagnostic tests have limited sensitivity and false negative results are common. Thus, negative results from rapid influenza diagnostic tests should not be used to guide decisions regarding treatment with influenza antiviral medications. In addition, false positive tests can occur and are more likely when influenza is rare in the community. When laboratory confirmation is desired, testing by RT-PCR and/or viral culture is recommended. If most circulating influenza viruses have similar antiviral susceptibilities, information on influenza A subtypes may not be needed to inform clinical care.

POLICY

1. Testing and treatment for influenza may be considered medically necessary for persons at high risk of influenza complications which include:
   a. progressive, severe, or complicated illness regardless of previous health status
   b. age 65 years and older
   c. young children
   d. children less than 19 years old receiving long term aspirin therapy
   e. morbidly obese patients (BMI >39)
   f. persons of American Indian / Alaska Native heritage
   g. pregnant women or those <2 weeks post partum
Influenza Virus Diagnostic Testing and Treatment in the Outpatient Setting, cont’d

- health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, neurologic and neurodevelopmental disorders, heart disease
- immunosuppressive conditions or medications
- residents of chronic care facilities

2. Chemoprophylaxis with antiviral drugs is not recommended for healthy persons exposed to influenza. It may be considered medically necessary for:
   - unvaccinated persons at high risk of complications of the disease
   - unvaccinated healthcare workers who come into close contact with a person with influenza during the infectious period (24 hours before onset of fever to 24 hours after its resolution)
   - to help control outbreaks in nursing homes
     When indicated, chemoprophylaxis should be started within 48 hours of exposure to the disease.

The term “young children” is not defined by the CDC, but may be considered children aged 6 months through 8 years of age according to the CDC’s web page on “Children, the Flu, and the Flu Vaccine” (http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/children.htm).

For more information on this medical policy, please see the BCBSKS Web site:

Web Changes – Medical Policy

Since the publication of Blue Shield Report S-4-12, the following new or revised medical policies have been posted to our Web site at:
http://www.bcbsks.com/CustomerService/Providers/MedicalPolicies/policies.htm

- Antidepressant Agents Prior Authorization Criteria (1-Step Edit)
- Automated Point-of-Care Devices for Nerve Conduction Testing
- Cardiac Computed Tomography (CT)
- Computer-Aided Evaluation of Malignancy with Magnetic Resonance Imaging of the Breast
- Denosumab (Prolia and Xgeva)
- Diagnosis and Medical Management of Obstructive Sleep Apnea Syndrome
- Digital Breast Tomosynthesis
- Fundus Photography
- Gene-Based Tests for Screening, Detection, and/or Management of Prostate Cancer
- Genetic Testing for Tamoxifen Treatment
- Home Prothrombin Time Monitoring
- Homocysteine Testing
- Image-Guided Minimally Invasive Lumbar Decompression (IG-MLD) for Spinal Stenosis
- Influenza Virus Diagnostic Testing and Treatment in the Outpatient Setting
- Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT)
- In Vitro Chemoresistance and Chemosensitivity Assays
- Kalydeco™ (ivacaftor) Prior Authorization (with Quantity Limit) Program Summary
- Measurement of Lipoprotein-Associated Phospholipase A2 (Lp-PLA2) n the Assessment of Cardiovascular Risk
- Meniscal Allografts and Collagen Meniscus Implants
- Off-Label-Approved Orphan, and Expanded Access (Compassionate Use) Drugs
- Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) of the Anterior Eye Segment
- Pharmacogenomic and Metabolite Markers for Patients Treated with Thiopurines
- Plugs for Fistula Repair
Web Changes – Medical Policy, continued

- Prophylactic Mastectomy
- Radiofrequency Catheter Ablation of the Pulmonary Veins as Treatment for Atrial Fibrillation
- Statin Step Therapy Prior Authorization Criteria
- Treatment of Tinnitus
- Vagus Nerve Stimulation
- Varicose Veins

The following policy was removed from the BCBSKS Web site:

- Positional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

A complete listing of all medical policies can be found on our Web site at:
http://www.bcbsks.com/CustomerService/Providers/MedicalPolicies/policies.htm

Pharmaceuticals

Formulary Update

Prime Therapeutics updates the BCBSKS formulary (preferred medication list) on a quarterly basis. Please refer to the link below when prescribing or dispensing medications for your Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas patients. Coverage is subject to the limitations of the member’s individual plan.

- https://www.myprime.com/MyRx/MyRxHealth/forms/KS_Alpha_Drug_List.pdf

A searchable version of the formulary is available at:

- https://www.myprime.com/MyRx/MyPrime/Commercial/findDrugs/KSBCBS/SAMST#ViewFindDrugsEvent

Specialty Pharmacy Program Has Changed

Prime Therapeutics (Prime) delivers our specialty pharmacy program, Triessent®. Triessent has changed. Triessent is now Prime Therapeutics Specialty Pharmacy LLC (Prime Specialty Pharmacy). Please note the new phone and fax numbers.

tel 877.627.MEDS [6337]
fax 877.828.3939

Beginning Aug. 1, 2012, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas began offering prescription drug benefits requiring the use of Prime Specialty Pharmacy for coverage of specialty drugs on our Specialty Drug List. A copy of this list and additional information about the specialty pharmacy program is available at:

www.bcbsks.com/CustomerService/prescriptiondrugs/specialty.htm

We encourage you to use Prime Specialty Pharmacy for all of your patients with BCBSKS prescription drug coverage.
Workshop Opportunities

Fall Documentation Guidelines Workshop

The fall workshop entitled “Documentation Guidelines: ICD-9 vs. ICD-10” is rapidly approaching. The workshops will be offered in Topeka on Tuesday, Oct. 2, in Salina on Wednesday, Oct. 3, and in Wichita on Thursday, Oct. 4. Our speaker will be Raemarie Jimenez, CPC, CPMA, CPC-1, CANPC, CRHC, the Director of Education for AAPC. Contrary to the information in the brochure, the workshop will provide 6 CEUs instead of five. Because of numerous requests on the evaluations for a shorter day, the workshops this year will begin at 8:00 A.M. and end at 3:00 P.M., providing a total of 6 CEUs approved by AAPC.

What’s Cookin’ with Diabetes Workshops Being Offered This Fall

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas in conjunction with Kansas State Research and Extension are offering free, two-hour workshops this fall. The workshops are a wonderful way to learn or be refreshed about how to self-manage diabetes between doctor’s visits, which is an essential part of staying healthy. Workshops are scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m., and will be offered in these cities.

- Sept. 24: Topeka (Spanish only)
- Sept. 25: Leavenworth
- Sept. 27: Downs
- Oct. 22: Dodge City*
- Oct. 23: Liberal*
- Oct. 29: Pittsburg
- Oct. 30: Paola

*This location will host two seminars, one in English and one in Spanish.

During the workshop, attendees will be offered problem solving tips, how and why to monitor blood sugars, ways to reduce risk, and the importance of taking medications, eating healthy and being active. Samples of diabetes-friendly foods also will be available.

Please encourage your patients who have diabetes to attend one of the workshops. Your patients can gather additional information about the workshops and register at www.bcbsks.com; there is a “What’s Cookin’ with Diabetes” link at the bottom of the home page (or click on the picture above).
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