

February 1, 2020

Re: AIM Specialty Health Clinical Appropriateness Guidelines update – Musculoskeletal Program: Joint Surgery and Spine Surgery

Dear Provider:

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield and our subsidiary company, HMO Nevada (Anthem), is writing to inform you of the following updates to the AIM Specialty Health® (AIM) Clinical Appropriateness Guidelines. AIM is a separate company.

Effective for dates of service on and after May 17, 2020, the following updates will apply to the AIM Musculoskeletal Program: Joint Surgery and Spine Surgery Clinical Appropriateness Guidelines.

Joint Surgery Updates by section:

- **Shoulder Arthroplasty**
 - Added steroid injection for all joints exclusion based on panel recommendation
 - Added exclusions for use of xenografts or biologic scaffold for augmentation or bridging reconstruction, use of platelet rich plasma or other biologics and concomitant subacromial decompression
 - Removed indication for subacromial impingement with rotator cuff tear
- **Hip arthroplasty**
 - Added exclusion for steroid injection for joint being replaced within the past 6 weeks
 - Added labral tear indication
- **Knee Arthroscopy and Open Procedures**
 - Added chondroplasty indication
 - Narrowed use of lateral release to lateral compression as a cause for anterior knee pain or chondromalacia patella
 - Added a conservative management and advanced osteoarthritis exclusion to patellar compression syndrome section
- **Code changes**
 - Added CPT codes 27425, 27570

Spine Surgery Updates by section:

- **No criteria changes**
- **Code changes only**
 - Added CPT codes 0200T, 0201T

As a reminder, ordering and servicing providers may submit pre-certification requests to AIM in one of several ways:

- Access AIM **ProviderPortal**_{SM} directly at providerportal.com. Online access is available 24/7 to process orders in real-time, and is the fastest and most convenient way to request authorization.
- Access AIM via the Availity Web Portal at availity.com
- Call the AIM Contact Center toll-free number: 877-291-0366, Monday–Friday, 7:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. PT.

For questions related to guideline updates, please contact AIM via email at aim.guidelines@aimspecialtyhealth.com. To access and download a copy of the current and upcoming guidelines, go to: <http://www.aimspecialtyhealth.com/ClinicalGuidelines.html>.

We value and appreciate you as our partner in providing quality care, and appreciate your continued participation in our network.

Sincerely,



Allen Marino, M.D.
Medical Director
Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield