

October 1, 2018

**Re: AIM Specialty Health Clinical Guidelines update – Advanced Imaging of the Heart**

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<sup>®</sup> (AIM) Clinical Guidelines. AIM is a separate company.

Effective for dates of service on and after January 28, 2019, the following updates will apply to the AIM clinical guidelines for Advanced Imaging of the Heart.

**Carotid duplex ultrasound**

- Criteria removed for evaluation of syncope in patients with suspected extracranial arterial disease
- New criteria address evaluation of TAVR (TAVI) in patients with suspected or established extracranial arterial disease

**Myocardial perfusion imaging (MPI), stress echocardiography, cardiac PET, and coronary CT angiography (CCTA)**

- Clarifications address exercise-induced syncope and exercise-induced dizziness, lightheadedness or near syncope in symptomatic patients with suspected coronary artery disease

**MPI, stress echocardiography, cardiac PET**

- Criteria added to allow annual surveillance of coronary artery disease in patients with established CAD post-cardiac transplant
- Clarified definition of established coronary artery disease when diagnosed by CCTA
  - more restrictive for patients diagnosed with coronary artery disease by prior coronary angiography, as FFR must be  $\leq 0.8$
  - more permissive for patients diagnosed with coronary artery disease by CCTA with FFR  $\leq 0.8$  (patients previously excluded)

**Resting transthoracic echocardiography (TTE)**

- New criteria for evaluation of ventricular function in patients who have undergone cardiac transplantation.

**Cardiac MRI**

- New criteria allows for annual study to quantify cardiac iron load in chronically ill patients with cardiomyopathy who require frequent blood transfusions (e.g., thalassemia)
- Removed allowance for annual LV function evaluation when echocardiography is suboptimal

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

- Access AIM **ProviderPortal**<sub>SM</sub> directly at [providerportal.com](http://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](http://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](mailto:aim.guidelines@aimspecialtyhealth.com). To access and download a copy of the current guidelines, go to: <http://www.aimspecialtyhealth.com/>.

Please note, this program does not apply to FEP.

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