

March 1, 2020

RE: Level of Care medical necessity reviews for upper and lower endoscopy procedures begin June 1, 2020

Dear Provider:

Anthem is committed to being a valued health care partner in identifying ways to achieve better health outcomes, lower costs and deliver access to a better healthcare experience for consumers.

Effective with dates of service on or after June 1, 2020, members with commercial plans covered by Anthem will require a medical necessity review of the hospital outpatient level of care for certain upper endoscopy and colonoscopy procedures. The clinical guideline, Level of Care: Hospital-Based Ambulatory Surgical Procedures and Endoscopic Services, CG-SURG-52, will apply to the review process. The review will be administered by AIM Specialty Health® (AIM).

AIM will evaluate the clinical information in the request against [CG-SURG-52](#), to determine if the hospital-based outpatient setting is the appropriate level of care for the endoscopy service. Your office may contact AIM to request a peer-to-peer discussion before or after the determination.

The level of care medical necessity review only applies to procedures performed in an outpatient hospital setting. This does not apply to requests for review of endoscopy performed in a non-hospital setting or as part of an inpatient stay. Reviews also do not apply when Anthem is the secondary payer.

For a complete list of procedures subject to the medical necessity level of care review, and additional information, such as Frequently Asked Questions, visit: aimproviders.com/surgicalprocedures.

Submit a request for review:

Starting May 18, 2020, ordering providers may submit prior authorization requests for the Hospital Outpatient level of care for these procedures for dates of service on or after June 1, 2020 to AIM in one of the following 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.

AIM will offer webinars, beginning in May, to provide information on navigating the AIM *ProviderPortal*. To register for a webinar visit: aimproviders.com/surgicalprocedures

Please note, this review does not apply to the following plans: BlueCard®, Federal Employee Program® (FEP®), Medicaid, Medicare Advantage, Medicare Supplemental plans. Providers can view prior authorization requirements for Anthem members at [Medical Policy, Clinical UM Guidelines](#), and [Prior Authorization Requirements](#) at anthem.com.

Providers should continue to verify eligibility and benefits for all members prior to rendering services.

If you have questions, please call the Provider Service phone number on the back of the member's ID card.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allen Marino".

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