

January 1, 2021

**RE: Medical Policy and Clinical UM Guidelines notification letter**

Dear Provider:

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield and our subsidiary company, HMO Colorado (Anthem) are pleased to provide you with our updated and new medical policies. Anthem will also be implementing changes to our Clinical Utilization Management (UM) Guidelines that are adopted for Colorado. The Clinical UM guidelines published on our website represent the clinical UM guidelines currently available to all Plans for adoption throughout our organization. Because local practice patterns, claims systems and benefit designs vary, a local Plan may choose whether or not to implement a particular clinical UM guideline. The link below can be used to confirm whether or not the local Plan has adopted the clinical UM guideline(s) in question. Adoption lists are created and maintained solely by each local Plan.

The major new policies and changes are summarized below. Please refer to the specific policy for coding, language, and rationale updates and changes that are not summarized below.

**New Clinical Guidelines effective for service dates on and after April 1, 2021:**

- **CG-DME-47 Noninvasive Home Ventilator Therapy for Respiratory Failure:** This document addresses the medically necessary indications for home use of noninvasive home ventilators.
- **CG-DME-34 Wheeled Mobility Devices: Wheelchair Accessories:** This document addresses criteria related to accessories and options for manual or powered wheelchairs.
- **CG-DME-26 Back-Up Ventilators in the Home Setting:** This document addresses the medically necessary indications for the use of back-up (or second additional) ventilators in the home setting, for use as a “back-up” machine, if needed.
- **CG-DME-13 Lower Limb Prosthesis:** This document addresses the use of lower limb prostheses required to replace the function of a lower limb loss due to trauma, disease, or a congenital condition
- **CG-PR-PR-04 Cranial Remodeling Bands and Helmets (Cranial Orthotics):** This document addresses the use of the adjustable band or helmet cranial orthoses as a treatment of craniosynostosis, non-synostotic plagiocephaly (asymmetrically shaped posterior head), scaphocephaly (abnormally shaped narrow head), and brachycephaly (abnormally shaped head; shortened in antero-posterior dimension without asymmetry) in infants.
- **CG-SURG-86 Endovascular/Endoluminal Repair of Aortic Aneurysms, Aortoiliac Disease, Aortic Dissection and Aortic Transection:** This document addresses the use of stent grafts placed endovascularly for the treatment of emergent vascular conditions of the aorta including aneurysms, thoracic aortic dissection and traumatic thoracic aortic injury (that is, transection).

Anthem Medical Policies and Clinical UM Guidelines are developed by our national Medical Policy and Technology Assessment Committee. The Committee, which includes Anthem medical directors and representatives from practicing physician groups, meets quarterly to review current scientific data and clinical developments.

All coverage written or administered by Anthem excludes from coverage, services or supplies that are investigational and/or not medically necessary. A member's claim may not be eligible for payment if it was determined not to meet medical necessity criteria set in Anthem's medical policies. Review procedures have been refined to facilitate claim investigation.

**Anthem's Medical Policies and Clinical UM Guidelines are available online:**

The complete list of our Medical Policies and Clinical UM Guidelines may be accessed on Anthem's Web site at [anthem.com](http://anthem.com), and select **Providers**. Under the *Provider Resources* heading, select **Policies and Guidelines**. Select **Colorado** as Your State. Select [View Medical Policies & UM Guidelines](#). Either enter key word or code, or select the link for [Full List page](#) to search the policy for your inquiry.

**To view the list of specific clinical UM guidelines adopted by Colorado**, navigate to the [View Medical Policies & UM Guidelines page](#). Scroll to the bottom of the page to the link titled [Clinical UM Guidelines adopted by Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Colorado](#).

Sincerely,



Jo Ann Nishimoto, MD  
Medical Director  
Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield