

Use established HCPCS and CPT codes when submitting prior authorization requests for BCN members

Here are guidelines to support accurate and timely reviews of prior authorization requests for BCN commercial and BCN Advantage members. Following these guidelines enables appropriate clinical review and reduces the amount of time it takes for us to determine medical necessity.

Note: The information in this provider alert applies to medical services for BCN members. It doesn't apply to pharmacy or behavioral health services.

What to do

When requesting prior authorization before a procedure is performed (preservice), submit requests for the most appropriate and established HCPCS or CPT* code.

What not to do

Don't submit unclassified procedure codes for preservice prior authorization requests when an established HCPCS or CPT code adequately describes the anticipated service. In most circumstances, an appropriate and established procedure code is available.

Note: Unclassified procedure codes include "not otherwise classified" (NOC) codes, unlisted codes and unspecified codes.

Exception: When a service requires an unclassified procedure code

Although uncommon, there are situations in which the service performed is appropriately reported with an unclassified code because there isn't an established code that accurately describes the service. In these situations, follow the standard billing rules and prior authorization requirements outlined in the *BCN Provider Manual*, including providing:

- The required supporting clinical documentation
- A description of what the unclassified code represents and a thorough explanation of why it is the most appropriate code based on the member's circumstances

Reminders

- Prior authorization determinations are based on the information and procedure codes submitted at the time BCN reviews the request.
- Authorization of a specific procedure code doesn't guarantee coverage or payment for services.



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Provider alert

BCN commercial and BCN AdvantageSM

Category: Authorizations/referrals

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