Blue Cross Blue Shield Blue Care Network of Michigan
Nonprofit corporations and independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

New gold card program for pain management procedures for commercial members starting March 1

We'll start a new gold card program for pain management procedures for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network commercial members on March 1, 2027. The program will apply to pain management procedures for which prior authorization requests are managed by TurningPoint Healthcare Solutions.

Our gold card programs relax prior authorization requirements for eligible healthcare providers to help reduce administrative burden while maintaining the effectiveness of Blue Cross and BCN utilization management programs.

Once the gold card program for pain management procedures starts, gold carded providers will continue to submit prior authorization requests through the TurningPoint provider portal for commercial members. However, they'll only need to enter basic member information, diagnosis codes and the service or procedure planned (with the CPT* or HCPCS code). They won't need to submit clinical documentation and their requests will be approved at the time of submission.

We're currently evaluating and measuring pain management providers' utilization of services. Providers that meet or exceed the defined thresholds for utilization at the physician organization, practice unit or individual provider level will be assigned gold card status.

In December, we'll communicate the results of our evaluations with physician organizations that participate in the Physician Group Incentive program (PGIP). That communication will also include additional details about the gold card program for pain management procedures.

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