



The purpose of this document is to help answer frequently asked questions that Blue Advantage (HMO) ordering and rendering physicians may have about the Blue Advantage Radiation Oncology Program.

Radiation Oncology Program Frequently Asked Questions

What is included in the Blue Advantage Radiation Oncology Program?

Our Blue Advantage Radiation Oncology Program reviews certain treatment plans against clinical appropriateness criteria to help ensure that care aligns with established evidence-based medicine. To request review of treatment plans, providers should contact AIM Specialty Health® (AIM) for review for the radiation therapy modalities and services as noted below:

Pre-Service Review:

For treatment plans that are scheduled to begin on or after January 1, 2016, all providers must contact AIM to obtain pre-service review for the following non-emergency, outpatient radiation therapy modalities:

- Brachytherapy
- Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT)
- Proton Beam Radiation Therapy (PBRT)
- Stereotactic Radiosurgery (SRS) / Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy (SBRT)
- 3D Conformal Therapy* (EBRT) for bone metastases and breast cancer
- Intraoperative Radiation Therapy (IORT)

Review also included for:

- Hypo fractionation for bone metastases and breast cancer when requesting EBRT and IMRT
- Special procedures and consultations associated with a treatment plan (CPT® codes 73370 and 77470)
- Image Guidance Radiation Therapy (IGRT)

Radiation therapy performed as part of an inpatient admission is not part of this program.

*Voluntary Notification for 3-D Conformal Radiation Therapy (EBRT)

For EBRT, pre-service review is required only for procedures involving bone metastases and breast cancer. Additionally, Blue Advantage requests that ordering providers contact AIM to review all other 3-D conformal therapy requests on a voluntary basis.

Why is Blue Advantage requesting voluntary notification for EBRT?

We are collecting this information to obtain a more complete understanding of the broad range of radiation therapy services being delivered for Blue Advantage members. Clinical review will be performed to confirm appropriateness and to ensure the ordering physician is aware of alternative treatments where applicable. Once clinical review is completed an order number will be issued. Claims will not be denied as a result of this voluntary process.

How do I initiate a request with AIM?

Providers can contact AIM through one the following ways:

- online: via AIM **ProviderPortal**_{SM}, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week through iLinkBlue (www.bcbsla.com/ilinkblue). It is fully interactive, processing requests in real-time.
- phone: 1-866-455-8416

CPT® only copyright 2017 American Medical Association. All rights reserved.

When should I submit my request to AIM?
Providers are strongly encouraged to verify that an order number has been obtained before initiating, scheduling and performing services.
What information do I need before submitting my request to AIM?
AIM's Detailed Order Request Checklists for Radiation Oncology document is available online to Blue Advantage providers at www.aimprovider.com/radoncology >Resources.
How will radiation therapy requests be reviewed by AIM?
For orders requiring pre-service review, AIM will review requests against AIM proprietary clinical guidelines, as well as Blue Advantage medical policy. <u>For orders requiring pre-service review:</u> If the request meets medical necessity criteria based on the information submitted by the ordering provider's office, the provider will receive an order number. If the request does not immediately meet criteria, the case will be forwarded for additional clinical review. Clinical reviewers will request additional information regarding the case. If the additional information confirms that the case is consistent with clinical criteria, the provider will then receive an order number. If, with the additional information, the case still does not meet clinical criteria, the case may be denied by an AIM physician reviewer. The ordering provider will be notified within 14 days of the final outcome for the request. <u>Pre-notification for 3-D Conformal Radiation Therapy (EBRT):</u> For EBRT, pre-service review is required only for procedures involving bone metastases and breast cancer. Additionally, Blue Advantage requests that ordering providers contact AIM to review all other 3-D conformal therapy requests on a voluntary basis. Clinical review will be performed to confirm appropriateness and to ensure the ordering physician is aware of alternative treatments where applicable. Once clinical review is completed an order number will be issued. Claims will not be denied as a result of this voluntary process.
Is review necessary when Blue Advantage is not the member's primary insurance?
A review is NOT required by Blue Advantage when it is not the member's primary insurance carrier.
What does the AIM order number look like?
AIM order numbers are nine numeric digits.
How long is an order number valid?
Upon approval, AIM will provide the ordering physician with an order number, which will be valid for 90 days from the initial treatment date. Issuance of an order number is not a guarantee of payment. When submitted, the claim will be processed in accordance with the terms of the member's health benefit plan.
If AIM issues an adverse determination, is there an option to appeal the decision?
Yes, you may appeal directly to Blue Advantage in writing and fax it to 1-877-553-6153, Attn. Provider Dispute.
If the order request is done via phone, is a letter sent to the provider whether the request was approved or denied?
Yes, letters will be sent to the ordering provider by either AIM or the health plan.