

**Provider Bulletin**  
**January 29, 2009**

**Services Requiring Prior Authorization:  
Additional Codes Effective March 15, 2009**

**This provider bulletin is an update to BlueChoice HealthPlan's Provider Operations Manual (Manual). This information will be reflected in the next Manual update.**

By March 15, 2009, BlueChoice HealthPlan will include additional codes requiring prior authorization (PA) for certain critical services for our Medicaid program members. You will find the additional codes under these three existing services:

- Outpatient Surgical Services delivered in an ambulatory surgical center or outpatient hospital setting
- Radiology Services—PET/SPECT scans, CTAs, and MRIs
- Outpatient Observation Status (in a hospital setting)

Providers are responsible for verifying eligibility and benefits before providing services to BlueChoice HealthPlan's members, in addition to obtaining PA. Except for an emergency, failure to obtain prior authorization for the services listed may result in a denial for reimbursement.

**In the vast majority of cases, failure to obtain prior authorization will result in a denial of the claim.**

We will update the Services Requiring Prior Authorization list by March 15, 2009. You will find the updated list on our website at [www.BlueChoiceSCMedicaid.com](http://www.BlueChoiceSCMedicaid.com). Select **Providers**; then select **Resources** on the left side of the screen. From the **Resources** list, select **Services Requiring Prior Authorization**.

To request prior authorization, report a medical admission, or ask questions regarding prior authorization, please contact BlueChoice HealthPlan's Utilization Management department at **1-866-902-1689**. You also may fax prior authorization requests to **1-800-823-5520**.

**Where to Find BlueChoice HealthPlan's Medical Policies and Clinical UM Guidelines**

To learn more about medical policies and clinical Utilization Management guidelines, and find details about pharmacy prior authorization requirements, please visit our website at [www.BlueChoiceSCMedicaid.com](http://www.BlueChoiceSCMedicaid.com). Choose **Providers**, choose **Resources** and then choose **Medical Policies and UM Guidelines** or **Pharmacy Information** from the Resources list.