



December 22, 2008

Dear Physician

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Georgia will be expanding the pre-determination process for drugs administered in your office or at a facility to include red and white blood cell growth factors. These drugs are referenced in Clinical UM Guidelines **Drug -05 Recombinant Erythropoietin Products** and **Drug – 16 White Blood Cell Growth Factors**, which will be adopted effective **April 1, 2009**. The drugs include Procrit®, Epogen® and Aranesp® (Codes J0885, J0886, Q4081, J0881, J0882) and Neupogen, Neulasta and Leukine/Prokine (Codes J1440, J1441, J2505, and J2820). This change applies to most BCBSGA local standard groups. Please call the number on the back of the member's ID card to verify benefits and the availability of the pre-determination process for these drugs.

Beginning April 1, 2009, complete a Pre-Determination of Medical Benefits form for each Member and fax it to 404-848-2448 or call our Medical Management department at 1-800-722-6614. Once received, the pre-determination team will review the form, verify the member's benefits, clinical information, and facilitate timely review of the requested medication. If a patient needs same day administration, we recommend that you complete and fax the Pre-Determination of Medical Benefits form and call Medical Management at 1-800-722-6614. If you know the patient meets the clinical guideline, you can also complete the form and submit it with your claim.

We recommend that you begin requesting predeterminations as of April 1, 2009. Authorizations will be approved for a time period which varies according to the drug. The authorized period will be communicated at the time of the predetermination review.

You can find the Pre-Determination of Medical Benefits form, along with the Clinical UM Guidelines and Medical Policies on our website, bcbsga.com.

To view a Medical Policy or Clinical UM Guideline:

BCBSGA.com>Click Medical Policies and Clinical UM Guidelines under Learn More section. You will be given the option to search by Medical Policy, Clinical UM or both.

To access the Pre-determination for Medical Benefits form:

BCBSGA.com>under Learn More, Click Pre-Service Medical Review for Specialty Drugs>Click the applicable drug

We look forward to working with you. If you have questions, please call Medical Management at 1-800-722-6614, Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert McCormack MD". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Robert McCormack, MD
Medical Director