

Update to precertification requirements for radiation oncology, sleep medicine and cardiology services

Summary of change: Effective February 15th, 2018, clinical appropriateness precertification reviews for radiation oncology, sleep medicine and cardiology services for all Medicaid and CHIP members will be managed by AIM Specialty Health® (AIM) on behalf of Amerigroup.

AIM works with leading insurers to improve health care quality and manage costs for today's most complex and prevalent tests and treatments. AIM helps promote care that is appropriate, safe and affordable.

Contact AIM to request the following services at 1-800-714-0040:

- Cardiology
- Radiation oncology
- Sleep medicine

Cardiology

Providers must contact AIM to obtain an order number for the following cardiology services:

- CT scans/CAT scans (including cardiac)
- MRI (including cardiac)
- Positron emission tomography scans (including cardiac)
- Nuclear cardiology
- Stress echocardiography
- Resting transthoracic echocardiography
- Transesophageal echocardiography
- Arterial ultrasound
- Cardiac catheterization
- Percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI)

We understand the need for arterial duplex imaging or PCI procedures may not be identified until patients have undergone a physiologic study or cardiac catheterization. For these cases, please contact AIM to request a clinical appropriateness review no later than 10 business days after you perform these procedures and before you submit a claim. For all other cases, please contact AIM to obtain authorization at least 72 hours before you perform the procedure.

Learn more about submitting a cardiology request

Find order entry checklists, a step-by-step tutorial, clinical guidelines and FAQ at www.aimprovider.com/cardiology.

<https://providers.amerigroup.com>

Amerigroup members in the Medicaid Rural Service Area and the STAR Kids program are served by Amerigroup Insurance Company; all other Amerigroup members in Texas are served by Amerigroup Texas, Inc.

Radiation oncology

Providers must contact AIM to obtain precertification for the following nonemergency, outpatient radiation oncology modalities:

- Brachytherapy
- Intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT)
- Proton beam radiation therapy
- Stereotactic radiosurgery/stereotactic body radiotherapy
- 3-D conformal therapy (EBRT) for bone metastases and breast cancer*
- Hypofractionation for bone metastases and breast cancer when requesting EBRT and IMRT
- Special procedures and consultations associated with a treatment plan (CPT codes 77370 and 77470)
- Image guided radiation therapy

Radiation oncology performed as part of an inpatient admission is not part of the AIM program.

Radiation oncology providers are strongly encouraged to verify that an order number has been obtained before initiating scheduling and performing services. Review requests may also be initiated within 72 hours of the first treatment start date but before a claim is filed.

* For EBRT, precertification is required only for procedures involving bone metastases and breast cancer; however, Amerigroup is requesting that ordering providers contact AIM to review all other EBRT 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.

Learn more about submitting a radiation oncology request

Find order entry checklists, a step-by-step tutorial, clinical guidelines and FAQ at www.aimprovider.com/radoncology.

Sleep medicine

Providers must contact AIM to obtain an order number before scheduling or performing any elective outpatient, home-based (unattended) diagnostic study or a facility-based diagnostic or titration study (freestanding or hospital). Providers must also obtain an order number for sleep treatment equipment and related supplies. The following services are included in the program:

- Home sleep tests
- In-lab sleep studies — polysomnography, multiple sleep latency test or multiple wake test
- Titration studies
- Initial treatment orders — automatic positive airway pressure (APAP), continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) or bilevel positive airway pressure (BPAP)
- Ongoing treatment orders — APAP, CPAP or BPAP
- Oral appliances (only for AIM guidelines adoption)

Services performed in conjunction with ER services, inpatient hospitalization or urgent care facilities are excluded. Both ordering physicians (those referring the member for sleep testing) and servicing providers (those freestanding or hospital labs that perform sleep testing) may submit requests.

This program pertains to both new and existing sleep therapy patients.

New clinical guidelines

Effective February 15th, 2018, the sleep management program radiation oncology, sleep medicine and cardiology services will follow the *AIM Sleep Disorder Management Diagnosis and Treatment Guidelines*. AIM's clinical guidelines for sleep medicine are developed and revised through a rigorous review process utilizing a comprehensive assessment of existing guidelines, evidence-based standards and literature, and feedback from the AIM External Physician Specialty Advisory Panel, which includes board-certified physicians from both community and academic practices. The *AIM Sleep Disorder Management Diagnosis and Treatment Guidelines* can be accessed on the AIM website at <http://www.aimspecialtyhealth.com>.

Learn more about submitting a sleep medicine request

Find order entry checklists, a step-by-step tutorial, clinical guidelines and FAQ at <http://www.aimspecialtyhealth.com/gowebssleep>.

***ProviderPortal*_{SM} — the fastest, easiest way to contact AIM**

ProviderPortal, an online application, offers a convenient way to enter your order requests or check on the status of your previous orders. Go to www.providerportal.com to begin (registration required).

For questions regarding your online order, please contact the AIM *ProviderPortal* Support Team at 1-800-252-2021.

Resources for your practice

Specialty-specific websites are available to provide you with access to valuable information and tools, including:

- Order-entry checklists.
- A step-by-step tutorial.
- Clinical guidelines.
- An FAQ.

Specialty-specific websites

For more information, please visit the following websites:

- Cardiology resources (www.aimprovider.com/cardiology)
- Radiation oncology resources (www.aimprovider.com/radoncology)
- Sleep medicine resources (www.aimspecialtyhealth.com/gowebssleep)

What if I need assistance?

If you have questions about this communication, received it in error or need assistance with any other item, contact your local Provider Relations representative or call Provider Services toll free at 1-800-454-3730.