



Medicare Advantage Therapeutic Radiation Prior Authorization Program for IMRT, SRS and SBRT

Effective April 1, 2014, UnitedHealthcare will implement a new online prior authorization program for therapeutic radiotherapy for our Medicare Advantage Plan members. The program is expected to provide a number of advantages to radiation oncologists by expediting review of treatment compliance with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) National Coverage Decisions (NCD), Local Coverage Decisions (LCD) and UnitedHealthcare medical policies; and helping to prevent most post-service denials that occur due to insufficient clinical information.

Therapies that require prior authorization include:

- Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT)
- Stereotaxic Radiosurgery (SRS)
- Stereotaxic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT)

The program gives providers the ability to:

- Submit clinical information online during the authorization process
- Receive online auto-approval for cases that meet CMS NCDs, LCDs and UnitedHealthcare clinical policy criteria
- Include additional clinical information for use in the review process if a request has not been immediately authorized
- Request a peer-to-peer discussion with a radiation oncologist at any point during the authorization process
- Reduce most claim denials after the treatment has been given

Other key program components:

- Authorization is required prior to the start of therapy as well as each time a member starts a new IMRT, SRS or SBRT treatment regimen
- Prior authorization is required when Medicare Advantage is the primary payor and UnitedHealthcare has retained financial and utilization management responsibility
- If there is a change of treating provider, a new authorization is not required. However, changes must be reported to 866-889-8054
- CareCore National Oncology Division will provide therapeutic radiotherapy reviews on our behalf.

Tools & Resources

Additional information about this program will be available on the UnitedHealthcareOnline.com website at UHOnline.com > *Clinician Resources* > *Cancer – Oncology* > *Medicare Advantage Therapeutic Radiation*.

The Medicare Advantage Therapeutic Radiation web page will include the following information:

- Getting Started document
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
- Provider Training document
- Prior Authorization On-line User Guide
- CPT/HCPC Code List
- External Provider Training Schedule