GA STANDARD PREAPPROVAL REQUIREMENTS
BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF GEORGIA, INC.
PARTICIPATING PROVIDER (INDEMNITY) AND PREFERRED PROVIDER ORGANIZATION (PPO) AND
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD HEALTHCARE PLAN OF GEORGIA, INC.
BLUE CHOICE HEALTHCARE PLAN (HMO), BLUE CHOICE OPTION (POS), BLUE DIRECT (HMO/POS), BLUE OPEN ACCESS
10/1/2018

Eligibility and benefits
Eligibility and benefits can be verified by accessing the BCBSGa/BCBSHP web site bcbsga.com or by calling the number on the back of the member’s identification card. Service preapproval is based on member’s benefit plan/eligibility at the time the service is reviewed/approved. Benefit plans vary widely and are subject to change based on the contract effective dates. The provider is responsible for verification of member eligibility and covered benefits. Except in the case of an emergency, failure to obtain preapproval prior to rendering the designated services listed below will result in denial of reimbursement.

AIM Specialty Health, a separate company, is a nationally recognized leader delivering specialty benefits management on behalf of GA for certain health plan members. Determine if preapproval is needed for a GA member by clicking the “Medical Policy, Clinical UM Guidelines, and Preapproval Requirements” link on our provider website, or by calling the preapproval phone number printed on the back of the member’s ID card. To submit your request for any of the services below, contact AIM online via AIM’s ProviderPortal at AIM Specialty Health. From the drop-down menu, select GA. You may also call AIM toll-free at 866-714-1103, Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. ET.

AIM provides benefits management for the programs listed below:

> Imaging Level of Care
> Genetic Testing
> Diagnostic Imaging Management
> Cardiovascular Services
> Radiation Therapy Services
> Outpatient Sleep Testing and Therapy Services
> Specialty Pharmacy Drugs
> Cancer Care Quality Program
> Musculoskeletal (MSK) Program (for Fully Insured – effective date yet to be determined)
> Upper Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (effective 11/1/2018)

For more details on these programs, please visit the AIM Specialty Health® site at AIM Specialty Health.

By clicking on the link above, you will be linked to sites created and/or maintained by another, separate entity (“External Site”). Upon linking you are subject to the terms of use, privacy, copyright and security policies of the External Sites. We provide these links solely for your information and convenience. We encourage you to review the privacy practices of the External Sites. The information contained on the External Sites should not be interpreted as medical advice or treatment provided by us.
New AIM Musculoskeletal (MSK) Program: Delay in launch for Fully Insured – effective date yet to be determined

The December 2017 edition of the Network Update announced that AIM Specialty Health® (AIM), a separate company, would perform prior authorization reviews of certain surgeries of the spine and joints, as well as interventional pain treatment to determine medical necessity for fully insured BCBSGA members. Please be aware this program has been delayed. The new implementation date is yet to be determined.

The new musculoskeletal program includes review of the level of care/setting, pre-operative days, and expected length of stay for medical necessity using AIM clinical guidelines which have been adopted by BCBSGA. All codes and clinical guidelines included in the musculoskeletal program can be found on the AIM MSK website. If there are any additional delays to this program, we will publish notification to providers in a future Network Update.

Institutional admissions requiring preapproval

- Acute inpatient (Including transplants)
- Sub-acute inpatient – Long Term Care (moved to MCG)
- Skilled Nursing (moved to MCG)
- Inpatient rehabilitation (moved to MCG)

NOTE: For urgent/emergent admissions all facilities must notify BCBSGa within 24 hours or the next business day.

| Out-of-network/out-of-area non-emergency services (HMO/POS/Blue Direct HMO and Blue Open Access Only) |
| Mental health and substance abuse services including Residential Treatment 800-292-2879 or fax 866-737-8503 |

Out-patient and some inpatient services requiring preapproval

NOTE: Medical Policies and Clinical Guidelines for procedures and services highlighted below will be archived 1/1/2019 for groups NOT using AIM.

Ablative Techniques as a Treatment for Barrett's Esophagus
Adenoidectomy
Ambulance Services: Ground; Non-Emergent
Ambulatory and Inpatient Video Electroencephalography
Antineoplaston Therapy
Aortic Aneurysm, Thoracic, Repair with Graft
Aortic Coarctation, Excision or Repair
Applied Behavioral Analysis for Autism Spectrum Disorder
Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Devices/Speech Generating Devices (SGD)
Axial Lumbar Interbody Fusion (Fully Insured to AIM MSK – date yet to be determined)
Bariatric Surgery and Other Treatments for Clinically Severe Obesity
Bicompartmental Knee Arthroplasty (Fully Insured to AIM MSK – date yet to be determined)
Blepharoplasty, Blepharoptosis Repair and Brow Lift
Bone Graft Substitutes (Fully Insured to AIM MSK – date yet to be determined)
Bone-Anchored and Bone Conduction Hearing Aids
Bowel Surgery: Abdominopereineal Resection or Total Colectomy with Proctectomy
Bowel Surgery: Colectomy, Partial, with or without Ostomy
Bowel Surgery: Colectomy, Partial, with or without Ostomy, by Laparoscopy
Bowel Surgery: Small Intestine Resection
Breast Procedures including Reconstructive Surgery, Implants and Other Breast Procedures
Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy (CRT) with or without an Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (CRT/ICD) for the Treatment of Heart Failure
Cardiac Valve Replacement or Repair
Cardiac Valve: Ross Procedure
Cardioverter-Defibrillators
Carotid, Vertebral and Intracranial Artery Angioplasty with or without Stent Placement
Cervical Fusion (Fully Insured to AIM MSK – date yet to be determined)
Cervical Total Disc Arthroplasty (Fully Insured to AIM MSK – date yet to be determined)
Chelation Therapy
Cochlear Implants and Auditory Brainstem Implants
Computer-Assisted Musculoskeletal Surgical Navigational Orthopedic Procedures (Delete 5/1/2018)
Coronary Artery Imaging: Contrast-Enhanced CT Angiography, Fractional Flow Reserve derived from CT, Coronary MRA, and Cardiac MRI (Archive 1/1/2019)

Cosmetic and Reconstructive Services of the Head and Neck

Cosmetic and Reconstructive Services of the Trunk and Groin

Cosmetic and Reconstructive Services: Skin Related

Cryoablation for Plantar Fasciitis and Plantar Fibroma

Cryopreservation of Oocytes or Ovarian Tissue

Cryosurgical Ablation of Solid Tumors Outside the Liver

Deep Brain Stimulation

Diagnostic Infertility Surgery

Elective Total Hip Arthroplasty (Fully Insured to AIM MSK – date yet to be determined)

Elective Total Knee Arthroplasty (Fully Insured to AIM MSK – date yet to be determined)

Electric Breast Pumps

Electrical Bone Growth Stimulation (Fully Insured to AIM MSK – date yet to be determined)

Electrothermal Shrinkage of Joint Capsules, Ligaments, and Tendons

Epiduroscopy

Esophageal pH Monitoring

Extracorporeal Shock Wave Therapy for Orthopedic Conditions

Extraosseous Subtalar Joint Implantation, Subtalar Arthroereisis (Fully Insured to AIM – date yet to be determined)

Functional Electrical Stimulation (FES); Threshold Electrical Stimulation (TES)

Functional Endoscopic Sinus Surgery (FESS)

Gallbladder Removal

Gastric Electrical Stimulation

Gender Reassignment Surgery

Hip Replacement (Fully Insured to AIM MSK – date yet to be determined)

Hip Resurfacing

Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (Systemic/Topical)

Hyperhidrosis

Hysterectomy

Implantable Ambulatory Event Monitors and Mobile Cardiac Telemetry

Implantable Infusion Pumps

Implantable Middle Ear Hearing Aids

Implanted Epidural & Subcutaneous Spinal Cord Stimulators (Fully Insured to AIM MSK – date to be determined)

Implanted Devices for Spinal Stenosis (Fully Insured to AIM MSK – date yet to be determined)

Injection, aldesleukin, per single use vial

Injection, alemtuzumab, 10 mg

Injection, topotecan, 0.1 mg

Intensive In-home Behavioral Health Services

Intensive Programs for Pediatric Feeding Disorders

Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI)

Intraocular Anterior Segment Aqueous Drainage Devices (without extraocular reservoir)

Intraoperative Assessment of Surgical Margins During Breast-Conserving Surgery with Radiofrequency Spectroscopy or Optical Coherence Tomography

Intussusception Reduction, Surgical

Kidney Transplantation

Knee Arthroscopy (Fully Insured to AIM MSK – date yet to be determined)

Locally Ablative Techniques for Treating Primary and Metastatic Liver Malignancies

Lumbar Fusion and Lumbar Total Disc Arthroplasty (Fully Insured to AIM MSK – date yet to be determined)

Lumbar Laminectomy, Hemi-Laminectomy, Laminotomy, Discectomy (Fully Insured to AIM MSK – date to be determined)

Lung Volume Reduction Surgery
Lysis of Epidural Adhesions (Fully Insured to AIM MSK – date yet to be determined)
Mandibular/Maxillary (Orthognathic) Surgery
Manipulation Under Anesthesia of the Spine and Joints other than the Knee (Archive 1/1/2019)
Mastectomy for Gynecomastia
Maze Procedure
Meniscal Allograft Transplantation of the Knee (Fully Insured to AIM MSK – date yet to be determined)
Microprocessor Controlled Lower Limb Prosthesis
MRI Guided High Intensity Focused Ultrasound Ablation for Non-Oncologic Indications
Myoelectric Upper Extremity Prosthetic Devices
Nasal Surgery for the Treatment of Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) (Including Radiofrequency Ablation of Nasal Turbinates for Nasal Obstruction with or without OSA)
Near-Infrared Spectroscopy Brain Screening for Hematoma Detection
Non-implantable Insulin Infusion and Blood Glucose Monitoring Devices
Occipital nerve stimulation
Oral, Pharyngeal and Maxillofacial Surgical Treatment for Obstructive Sleep Apnea or Snoring
Oscillatory Devices for Airway Clearance including High Frequency Chest Compression and Intrapulmonary Percussive Ventilation (IPV)
Outpatient Cardiac Hemodynamic Monitoring Using a Wireless Sensor for Heart Failure Management
Ovarian and Internal Iliac Vein Embolization as a Treatment of Pelvic Congestion Syndrome
Pain Management: Cervical, Thoracic, Lumbar Facet Injections (Fully Insured to AIM MSK – date to be determined)
Pain Management: Epidural Steroid Injections (Fully Insured to AIM MSK – date yet to be determined)
Panniculectomy and Abdominoplasty
Partial Left Ventriculectomy
Penile Prosthesis Implantation
Percutaneous and Endoscopic Spinal Surgery (Fully Insured to AIM MSK – date yet to be determined)
Percutaneous Neurolysis for Chronic Neck and Back Pain (Fully Insured to AIM MSK – date yet to be determined)
Percutaneous Vertebroplasty, Kyphoplasty and Sacroplasty (Fully Insured to AIM MSK – date yet to be determined)
Photocoagulation of Macular Drusen
Pneumatic Pressure Devices
Powered Robotic Lower Body Exoskeleton Devices
Presbyopia and Astigmatism-Correcting Intraocular Lenses
Private Duty Nursing in the Home Setting
Prolotherapy for Joint and Ligamentous Conditions
Radiofrequency Ablation to Treat Tumors Outside the Liver
Radium RA 223 Dichloride (Xofigo®) (AIM reviews effective 9/1/2018)
Recombinant Human Bone Morphogenetic Protein (Fully Insured to AIM MSK – date yet to be determined)
Reduction Mammo
Sacral Nerve Stimulation as Treatment of Neurogenic Bladder Secondary to Spinal Cord Injury (Fully Insured to AIM MSK – date yet to be determined)
Sacroiliac Joint Fusion (Fully Insured to AIM MSK – date yet to be determined)
Selected Sleep Testing Services (AIM reviews)
Self-Expanding Absorptive Sinus Ostial Dilation
Septoplasty
Shoulder Replacement (Fully Insured to AIM MSK – date yet to be determined)
Spinal Surgery (Fully Insured to AIM MSK – date yet to be determined)
Standing Frames
Static Progressive Stretch (SPS) and Patient-Actuated Serial Stretch (PASS) Devices
Subcutaneous Hormone Replacement Implants
Suprachoroidal Injection of a Pharmacologic Agent
Surgical and Ablative Treatments for Chronic Headaches
Surgical & Minimally Invasive Treatments for Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH), Other Genitourinary Conditions
Surgical Interventions for Scoliosis and Spinal Deformity (Fully Insured to AIM MSK – date yet to be determined)
Surgical Treatment - Femoroacetabular Impingement Syndrome (Fully Insured to AIM MSK – date to be determined)
Temporomandibular Disorders
Tonsillectomy with or without Adenoidectomy for Children
Total Ankle Replacement
Transcatheter Closure of Patent Foramen Ovale and Left Atrial Appendage for Stroke Prevention
Transcatheter Uterine Artery Embolization
Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation for Depression
Transmyocardial/Perventricular Device Closure of Ventricular Septal Defects
Transstympanic Micropressure for the Treatment of Ménière’s Disease
Treatment of Osteochondral Defects of the Knee and Ankle (Fully Insured to AIM MSK – date yet to be determined)
Treatment of Varicose Veins (Lower Extremities)
Tropism Testing for HIV Management
Ultrasound Bone Growth Stimulation
Upper Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (AIM reviews 11/1/2018)
Vagus Nerve Stimulation
Vena Cava Filters (Delete 7/1/2018)
Venous Angioplasty with or without Stent Placement or Venous Stenting Alone (Add 1/1/2019)
Viscocanalostomy and Canaloplasty
Wearable Cardioverter Defibrillators
Wheeled Mobility Devices: Manual Wheelchairs – Ultra Lightweight
Wheeled Mobility Devices: Wheelchairs Powered, Motorized, With or Without Power Seating Systems and Power Operated Vehicles (POVs)
Wireless Capsule Endoscopy for Esophageal and Small Bowel Imaging and the Patency Capsule
Wireless Capsule Endoscopy for Gastrointestinal Imaging and the Patency Capsule
Wireless Capsule for the Evaluation of Suspected Gastric and Intestinal Motility Disorders

Service coverage:

HMO: Services listed above require preapproval and will be denied if rendered without the appropriate preapproval regardless of whether rendered in or out-of-network. HMO members do not have benefits for non-emergency services rendered outside of the network without obtaining a preapproval.

POS: Services listed above require preapproval and will be denied if rendered without the appropriate preapproval regardless of whether rendered in or out-of-network. Providers must have a referral for in-network benefit payment except for Blue Direct specialists and Open Access providers performing services that no longer require preapproval. If there is no referral or the member self-referred, the out-of-network benefit level will be paid.

PPO: Services listed above require preapproval and will be denied if rendered without the appropriate preapproval regardless of whether rendered in or out-of-network. PPO members do not require a referral for benefit payment.

(Non-urgent) Preapproval-notification process for BCBSGa

- Submit all required clinical information 15 calendar days before the proposed procedure when possible. A minimum time frame of three (3) business days is required to complete a thorough clinical analysis. A preapproval number will be provided to you once all clinical information has been received and reviewed.
- Institutional admissions – All facilities must notify us within 24 hours or the next business day (whichever is earlier) after admission.

Contact numbers:

AIM Specialty Health℠: For the Cancer Care Quality Program, Cardiovascular Services, Diagnostic Imaging Management, Genetic Testing, Outpatient Sleep Tests and Sleep Therapy Services, Radiation Therapy Services, Specialty Pharmacy and Level of Care call 866-714-1103 Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. ET or use the provider portal available at www.aimspecialtyhealth.com/goweb.

Mental health and substance abuse services: Call 800-292-2879 or fax 866-737-8503

Transplant evaluations, pre-determinations and inpatient admits: Call 800-824-0581

Preapproval requests can be submitted as follows: Routine, emergent/urgent requests call 800-722-6614 or fax 877-254-4971