Overview

Patients expect care providers and managed care organizations to work together to improve health care quality and affordability. To help meet that expectation, our organization sometimes has to put safeguards in place to help manage the appropriate use of certain services.

Starting with service dates from Oct. 1, 2019*, we’ll require notification/prior authorization for lower extremity vascular angiography for UnitedHealthcare commercial, UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan members. This means you’ll have to complete the notification/prior authorization process when requesting a lower extremity vascular angiography for these members.

*Dec. 1, 2019, for Iowa

Frequently Asked Questions

Why did UnitedHealthcare implement this notification/prior authorization requirement?

We implemented this notification/prior authorization requirement as part of our commitment toward the Triple Aim of improving health care services, health outcomes and overall cost of care. Our claims data shows that some care providers are using lower extremity vascular angiography before using less-invasive evaluations. According to our Lower Extremity Vascular Angiography policy, lower extremity vascular angiograms and interventions may be clinically needed when other forms of evaluating lower extremity arteries haven’t yielded adequate results. This requirement helps ensure our contracted care providers are following the Lower Extremity Vascular Angiography policy.

Which procedures are included in the notification/prior authorization requirements?

The Lower Extremity Vascular Angiography policy update and notification/prior authorization requirement applies to imaging lower extremity arteries. Starting with service dates from Oct. 1, 2019*, we’ll require notification/prior authorization for the following procedures related to lower extremity vascular angiography:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>CPT® Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angiography, extremity, unilateral, radiological supervision and interpretation</td>
<td>75710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angiography, extremity, bilateral, radiological supervision and interpretation</td>
<td>75716</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Where can I find a copy of the updated Lower Extremity Vascular Angiography policy?

We’ll post the updated policy by Oct. 1, 2019, at the following locations:

- **UnitedHealthcare Commercial**: UHCprovider.com/policies > Medical & Drug Policies and Coverage Determination Guidelines for UnitedHealthcare Commercial Plans > Lower Extremity Vascular Angiography

How does the notification/prior authorization process work?

When we receive a notification/prior authorization request for one of these procedures, we’ll contact you to confirm the request for lower extremity vascular angiography, and, based on our Lower Extremity Vascular Angiography policy, determine if it’s appropriate.

After we make our determination, we’ll contact both you and the member by mail and phone with our coverage decision within 15 calendar days from the submission date, or sooner based on regulation. If we deny coverage, we’ll provide details in the denial letter about how you can appeal that denial.

How do I submit a notification/prior authorization?

You can submit a notification/prior authorization request in one of the following ways:

- **Online**: Go to UHCprovider.com/paan. This preferred option gives you the ability to attach clinical information and may help give you and your patient the fastest results.
- **Phone**: Call the Provider Services number on your patient’s member health care ID card.

To learn more about the notification/prior authorization process, go to UHCprovider.com/priorauth.

What happens if I don’t complete a notification/prior authorization request?

If you don’t complete the notification/prior authorization process before performing a procedure at an outpatient hospital setting, we’ll deny the claims and you won’t be able to bill the member for the service.

Who can I contact if I have questions?

If you have questions, please contact your Provider Advocate. If you aren’t sure who your Provider Advocate is, go to UHCprovider.com > Menu > Contact Us > Find a Network Contact.

*Dec. 1, 2019, for Iowa

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