



# Understanding Predetermination

To avoid an unexpected out-of-pocket cost, it is important to find out ahead of time if a recommendation from your doctor will be covered by your benefit plan.



“Predetermination” is a review by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBSIL) of a doctor’s recommended medical procedure, treatment or test to make sure it meets medical necessity requirements. “Medical necessity” means the treatment is appropriate for your symptoms and diagnosis. Predetermination is optional, but suggested for services that may be considered experimental or investigational when performed for other purposes.

## Predetermination Process

The predetermination request is usually submitted to BCBSIL by a doctor, but you may also make the request by calling Customer Service at 877-284-1571 (this number is also on the back of your ID card). Be prepared to give this information:

- The group and subscriber identification numbers from the front of your BCBSIL ID card
- Medical procedure that has been recommended with Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code, if available
- Name, address and telephone number of the doctor who is recommending the procedure

BCBSIL may ask for more information from your doctor, such as your medical records. You and your doctor will both receive a copy of BCBSIL’s decision in writing within 30 days.\*

Listed here are some common services for which a predetermination review is recommended. It is not a complete list. Contact Customer Service if you have questions about other services.

- Abdomioplasty
- Autologous Chondrocyte Implant
- Avastin (Chemotherapy)
- Bariatric Surgery
- Blepharoplasty / Ptosis Repair
- Bone Growth Stimulators
- Botox
- Breast MRI
- Breast Reduction
- Brachytherapy
- Cryoablation or Radiofrequency Ablation
- CT Angiogram
- Chelation Therapy
- Dental Implants
- Dental Surgery
- Depo Provera
- Enhanced External Counterpulsation (EECP)
- Extracorporeal Shock Wave Treatment (ESWT)
- Growth Hormone
- Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT)
- Intravenous Immune Globulin (IVIG)
- Lipectomy/ Liposuction
- Nasal Surgeries
- Peripheral Nerve, Vagus Nerve or Spinal Cord Stimulator
- Orthotics
- Ostetomies
- Osteochondral Autograft Transfer System - OATS Procedures
- Panniculectomy
- PET Scans
- Proton Beam Therapy
- Sacroiliac (SI) Joint Injections
- Transplants
- Tysabri
- Varicose Vein Procedures

Predetermination is not the same as pre-authorization. "Pre-authorization" is a required process for the doctor to get approval from BCBSIL before you are admitted to the hospital for routine care. Pre-authorization is also called "pre-certification" or "pre-notification."

## Customer Service Support

Contact Customer Service at 877-284-1571 if you have any questions about your benefit plan.

[bcbsil.com/sprint](https://bcbsil.com/sprint)

\*Predetermination approval is not a guarantee of claims payment. Claims payment is subject to the actual information and charges submitted.