Utilization Management, Case Management, Condition Management

The intent of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBSIL) Medical Management Department is to help ensure our members have access to affordable, quality health care. Our programs are designed to promote the optimal use of health care resources to improve health care outcomes. We believe the efficient and effective use of health care service results in quality health care outcomes. We use various resources, including MCG™ care guidelines, which are evidence and consensus based guidelines to support effective care and efficient resource utilization. BCBSIL meets the Blue Cross Association Consortium, National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) and URAC standards.

Medical Management does not make determinations about whether services are medically appropriate, only if benefits are available. The final determination about what treatment or services should be received is between the patient and their health care provider.

Utilization Management (UM)
Based in part on industry and national standard of care guidelines, the UM program helps identified members receive benefits for the appropriate level of care in the most cost-effective setting, through short-term discharge planning, facilitating transitions between levels of care or pre-admission and post-discharge calls. For additional information, you may refer to the Health Care Delivery (HCD) Utilization Management Policy and Procedure and the HCD Reference Policy and Procedure located in the BCBSIL Policy and Procedures section on our Provider website.

Utilization Management Criteria
Utilization Management review criteria is available to BCBSIL contracted physicians or other professional providers upon request. To receive guidelines on a specific condition, please contact the Utilization Management Department.

Utilization Management Accessibility
Utilization Management: 800-572-3089
Available Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (CT), Monday through Friday
Benefit Preauthorization/Pre-certification Requests: 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (CT), Monday through Friday
- Outside of regular business hours, calls are received through a contracted answering service.
- BCBSIL provides Telecommunication Device for Deaf (TDD)/Text Telephone (TTY) services and language assistance for incoming callers.
- Toll-free and collect calls are accepted throughout Illinois and all states within the Continental U.S., as well as Alaska and Hawaii.
- An Automated Call Directing (ACD) system allows callers using touch-tone phones to self-direct to the appropriate area. Medical Management personnel will refer the caller or transfer the call to other appropriate departments as needed.
- Outbound calls to members and/or their authorized representatives, providers and vendors will be made during normal business hours.
- Service calls and messages are often responded to immediately during working hours, but no later than within one business day after receipt of a message.
Utilization Management Affirmation Statement
BCBSIL distributes an affirmation statement to all staff and practitioners involved in UM decision-making, affirming that:

- UM decisions are based on medical necessity, as defined in the member’s benefit plan, which takes into consideration appropriateness of care and services, and the existence of available benefits.
- The organization does not specifically reward health plan staff, providers or other individuals for issuing denials of coverage, care or service.
- Incentive programs are not utilized to encourage decisions that result in underutilization.

Case Management (CM)
CM services are available for many PPO and Blue Choice PPO℠ members. The services of CM help to facilitate benefits for clinically appropriate care. Case Management is a collaborative process that assesses plans, implements, coordinates, monitors and evaluates the options and services required to meet an individual’s health needs using communication and available resources to promote quality and a cost-effective outcome.

Case Management provides education and assistance for members with chronic medical conditions. Assistance may include, but is not limited to, unexpected catastrophic occurrences, psychosocial issues, and proactive management of anticipated medical management situations.

The objectives of the Case Management Program are designed to provide an individualized approach to managing the member’s healthcare needs. The program is an effort to:

- Coordinate medically necessary health care services in a manner that enhances the member’s quality of life
- Coordinate medically necessary health care services that promote high quality, cost-effective services in a manner that achieves better outcomes
- Involve the member or an authorized representative and the health care team in the development of a plan of care
- Provide member and family education regarding the patient’s benefits, disease process and choices regarding services including the right to refuse services
- Offer support services and assist the member with the monitoring of his or her condition in an effort to prevent complications
- Protect the welfare and safety of members and Case Management Coordinators
- Increase member and provider satisfaction by providing excellent customer service
- Evaluate results of member and practitioner surveys annually and develop processes to improve as indicated
- Establish guidelines for reasonable CM caseload and maintain an adequate number of Case Management Coordinators to provide optimum service for the population served

CM referrals may originate from a member, their family, physician, employer, hospital discharge planner, Integrative Predictive Modeling, Condition Management/Wellness, Utilization Management, an account executive, private duty nurse or other provider of services. All Case Management Coordinators performing Case Management functions are Registered Nurses in the State of Illinois with current unrestricted licensure, with a minimum of three years clinical practice experience and one year minimum of Health Insurance/Managed Care experience preferred and practice Case Management within the scope of their licensure (based on the standards of the discipline).

For additional information providers may contact a BCBSIL Case Manager by calling 888-978-9034. You may also refer to the Case Management section of the HCD Reference Policy and Procedure in the BCBSIL Policy and Procedures section on our Provider website.
Condition Management or Chronic Care Programs

BCBSIL has designed programs to assist members with knowledge and treatment of their clinical condition. Our goal is to further enhance the physician/patient relationship by providing members with information to help them take charge of their health status and understand the treatment plan from their physician. The focus is to help close the clinical gaps in care that members may experience and to guide members toward adopting healthier behavioral habits. These programs change from time to time and are not included in all benefit plans. Referrals may originate from Utilization Management, Case Management, Lifestyle Management, employer requests, self-referral, providers, Health Risk Assessment (HRA) completions or biometric screening. Outreach is provided electronically, telephonically and by mail.

The Top Five Condition Management Programs currently available for PPO members are as follows:

- Coronary Artery Disease
- Congestive Heart Failure
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
- Asthma
- Diabetes

Other programs may be available based on member benefit plan agreements. If you have any questions or concerns, contact the Condition Management Department at 866-308-4778.

The health condition management programs are not a substitute for the sound medical judgment of a member’s doctor. The final decision regarding any treatment or services is between the patient and their health care provider.

MCG (formerly Milliman Care Guidelines) is a trademark of MCG Health, LLC (part of the Hearst Health network), an independent third party vendor. BCBSIL makes no endorsement, representations or warranties regarding any products or services offered by third party vendors such as MCG. If you have any questions about the products or services offered by such vendors, you should contact the vendor(s) directly.

Checking eligibility and/or benefit information and/or the fact that a service has been preauthorized is not a guarantee of payment. Benefits will be determined once a claim is received and will be based upon, among other things, the member’s eligibility and the terms of the member’s certificate of coverage applicable on the date services were rendered. If you have any questions, please call the number on the member’s ID card.