Provider Newsletter

https://providers.amerigroup.com/IA
Provider Services: 1-800-454-3730

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**Coding Spotlight — Obesity**

The obesity epidemic is a serious issue in the United States. The obesity rate is rising. Obesity has significant health consequences, contributing to increased rates in several diseases, including metabolic syndrome, high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, high blood cholesterol, sleep disorders and cancers.

For detail information on obesity HEDIS® measurements and coding, please view the full update on our provider website.

*HEDIS is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).*

**Medical Policies and Clinical Utilization Management Guidelines updates**

The *Medical Policies* and *Clinical Utilization Management (UM) Guidelines* below were developed or revised to support clinical coding edits. Note, several policies and guidelines were revised to provide clarification only and are not included. Existing precertification requirements have not changed. For markets with carved-out pharmacy services, the applicable listings below are informational only.

Note:
- Effective November 1, 2018, MCG Care Guidelines will be used for reviews, to include the use of customizations to certain guidelines and:
  - *Inpatient and Surgical Care Guidelines*.
  - *General Recovery Care Guidelines*.
  - *Recovery Facility Care Guidelines*.
  - *Chronic Care Guidelines*.
  - *Behavioral Health Care Guidelines* (NEW).
- Additionally, effective November 1, 2018, AIM Specialty Health® Proton Beam Therapy will be used for clinical reviews.

Please share this notice with other members of your practice and office staff.

To search for specific policies or guidelines, visit [https://medicalpolicies.amerigroup.com/search](https://medicalpolicies.amerigroup.com/search).

**Medical Policies**

On May 3, 2018, the Medical Policy and Technology Assessment Committee (MPTAC) approved several *Medical Policies* applicable to Amerigroup Iowa, Inc.

**Clinical UM Guidelines**

On May 3, 2018, the MPTAC approved several *Clinical UM Guidelines* applicable to Amerigroup. The update details the guidelines adopted by the medical operations committee for the Government Business Division on April 19, 2018.

View the list of newly approved *Medical Policies* and *Clinical UM Guidelines* in the [May 2018 update](https://medicalpolicies.amerigroup.com/search).
Electronic Data Interchange migration to Availity

Recently, Amerigroup Iowa, Inc. partnered with Availity as our designated Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) gateway and E-Solutions Service Desk, and Amerigroup will not renew existing contracts with clearinghouse vendors. As a result, beginning January 1, 2019, Availity will manage all EDI trading partner relationships on behalf of Amerigroup. This new partnership will not interrupt your current services.

Transmitting 837 claims
If you currently transmit 837 claims using a clearinghouse, you should contact your clearinghouse as soon as possible to confirm your EDI submission path for Amerigroup transactions has not changed. If your clearinghouse notifies you of changes regarding connectivity, workflow or the financial cost of EDI transactions, there is a no-cost option available to you – You can submit claims directly through Availity.

Direct submitters can also use Availity for their 837 transmissions.

Registering with Availity
If you choose to submit directly through Availity but are not yet a registered user, go to https://www.availity.com and select REGISTER. The registration wizard will lead you through the enrollment process. Once complete, you will receive an email with your login credentials and next steps for getting started. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Availity at 1-800-AVAILITY (1 800-282-4548).

It is our priority to deliver a smooth transition to Availity for our EDI services. If you have questions, please contact your Provider Relations representative or Provider Services at 1-800-454-3730.

New pharmacy prior authorization fax numbers

Amerigroup Iowa, Inc. is streamlining its pharmacy intake and prior authorization (PA) process for its Medicaid members. Effective November 4, 2018, please use the below fax number to submit all Amerigroup pharmacy PA prescription drug requests:

PA for prescription drugs: 1-844-512-9004

To ensure a seamless transition, please update your records immediately and discontinue the use of all previous pharmacy PA retail fax numbers.

For more information, call Amerigroup Provider Services at 1-800-454-3730.

IAPEC-1629-18
Amerigroup Iowa, Inc. fights opioid addiction: Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes and Quality Medication-Assisted Therapy

**Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO)**

People are dying of opioid addiction. With the ECHO opioid addiction treatment, you can help save lives! Join one of several video tele-consultative ECHO learning communities nationwide and participate with other clinicians learning about medication-assisted treatment for individuals with opioid disorders. For more information, visit the ECHO website at [https://echo.unm.edu](https://echo.unm.edu).

**Benefits of participating include:**

- Addiction treatment training.
- Free continuing education credits.
- Opportunity to receive expert input on your (de-identified) patient cases.
- Access to a virtual learning community for treatment guidelines, tools and patient resources.
- Opportunity to ask questions and get a variety of support from specialists.

**Quality Medication-Assisted Therapy (MAT)**

To help ensure members have access to comprehensive evidence-based care, Amerigroup is committed to helping its providers double the number of members who receive behavioral health services as part of MAT for opioid addiction.

When treating patients with opioid use disorder, it is considered best practice to offer and arrange evidence-based treatment. This usually consists of MAT with buprenorphine or, in some plans, methadone maintenance treatment in combination with behavioral therapies. Behavioral therapies focused on medication adherence and relapse prevention can improve MAT outcomes and improve other social determinants of health, including development of an enhanced social support network in recovery.

**For more information**

For more information about what is considered best practice for medication-assisted treatment, please read the American Society of Addiction Medicine’s *National Practice Guideline For the Use of Medications in the Treatment of Addiction Involving Opioid Use*.

You can also contact Jennifer Tripp by email at jennifer.tripp@anthem.com for more information about the ECHO and MAT programs.

IA-NL-0116-18
New pharmacy electronic prior authorization request tool effective
November 4, 2018

Amerigroup Iowa, Inc. has partnered with CoverMyMeds to offer an electronic prior authorization (ePA) request tool that simplifies the process for requesting medications and checking the status of your submissions.

Features
These new features help simplify the pharmacy prior authorization process. You will be able to:
- Submit requests for general pharmacy medications (medications dispensed directly to a member from a retail pharmacy [or shipped from a specialty pharmacy]).
- Check ePA status.
- Upload supporting documents and review appeal status.

Availability
The tool will be available beginning November 4, 2018.

Accessing the tool
- Locate the existing link within your electronic medical records tool, if available.

Support with ePA through CoverMyMeds
- For support via chat, locate and activate the chat window in the bottom right of the webpage.
- For support via phone, call 1-866-452-5017, Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-10 p.m. CT and Saturday 7 a.m.-5 p.m. CT.

Amerigroup is focused on providing new tools to help make your job a little easier. We appreciate the compassion and dedication with which you care for your patients and our members.

IAPEC-1730-18
## Prior authorization requirements

### Interferon beta-1a

Effective January 1, 2019, prior authorization (PA) requirements will change for injectable/infusible drug Interferon beta-1a to be covered by Amerigroup Iowa, Inc. for Medicaid members.

**PA requirements will be added to the following:**
- Interferon beta-1a — injection, 30 mcg (J1826)

IA-NL-0124-18

### Somatrem

Effective January 1, 2019, prior authorization (PA) requirements will change for injectable/infusible drug Somatrem to be covered by Amerigroup Iowa, Inc.

**PA requirements will be added to the following:**
- Somatrem — injection, 1 mg (J2940)

IA-NL-0125-18

Federal and state law, as well as state contract language and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services guidelines, including definitions and specific contract provisions/exclusions, take precedence over these PA rules and must be considered first when determining coverage. **Noncompliance with new requirements may result in denied claims.**

To request PA, you may use one of the following methods:
- Web: [https://www.availity.com](https://www.availity.com)
- Fax: 1-800-964-3627
- Phone: 1-800-454-3730

Not all PA requirements are listed here. Detailed PA requirements are available to contracted and noncontracted providers on our provider website ([https://providers.amerigroup.com/IA > Quick Tools > Precertification Lookup Tool](https://providers.amerigroup.com/IA > Quick Tools > Precertification Lookup Tool)). Providers may also call us at 1-800-454-3730 for PA requirements.