Management of diagnostic imaging, cardiology and radiation oncology services

Effective November 1, 2017, clinical appropriateness review of diagnostic imaging, cardiology and radiation oncology services for UniCare Health Plan of West Virginia, Inc. (UniCare) members will be managed by AIM Specialty Health® (AIM). AIM works with leading insurers to improve health care quality and manage costs for today’s most complex and prevalent tests and treatments. This helps promote appropriate, safe and affordable care.

Providers should contact AIM to request review of diagnostic imaging, cardiology and radiation oncology services.

Diagnostic imaging and cardiology
Providers should contact AIM to obtain an order number for the following services:
- Computed tomography scans (CT) (including cardiac)
- Computed tomographic angiography (CTA)
- Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) (including cardiac)
- Magnetic resonance angiography (MRA)
- Magnetic Resonance Cholangiopancreatography (MRCP)
- Positron emission tomography scans (PET) (including cardiac and PET/CT fusion)
- Nuclear cardiology
- Stress echocardiography
- Resting transthoracic echocardiography
- Transesophageal echocardiography
- Arterial ultrasound
- Cardiac catheterization
- Percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI)

We understand that the need for arterial duplex imaging or PCI procedures may not be identified until patients have undergone a physiologic study or cardiac catheterization. For these cases, please contact AIM to request clinical appropriateness review no later than 10 business days after you perform these procedures (and before you submit a claim). For all other cases, please contact AIM to obtain authorization before you perform the procedure.

Radiation oncology
Providers should contact AIM to obtain pre-service review for the following nonemergent, outpatient radiation oncology modalities:
- Brachytherapy
- Intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT)
- Proton beam radiation therapy
- Stereotactic radiosurgery/stereotactic body radiotherapy

The information in this bulletin may be an update or change to your provider manual. Find the most current manual at: www.unicare.com
- 3D conformal therapy* (EBRT) for bone metastases and breast cancer
- Hypofractionation for bone metastases and breast cancer when requesting EBRT and IMRT
- Special procedures and consultations associated with a treatment plan (CPT codes 77370 and 77470)
- Image guided radiation therapy

* Voluntary notification for EBRT — For EBRT, pre-service review is required only for procedures involving bone metastases and breast cancer. Additionally, UniCare is requesting that ordering providers contact AIM to review all other 3D conformal therapy requests on a voluntary basis. Clinical review will be performed to confirm appropriateness and to ensure the ordering physician is aware of alternative treatments (where applicable). Once clinical review is completed, an order number will be issued.

Radiation oncology performed as part of an inpatient admission is not part of the AIM program.

Radiation oncology providers are strongly encouraged to verify that an order number has been obtained before initiating scheduling and performing services.

Resources for your practice
ProviderPortalSM is the fastest, easiest way to contact AIM. An online application, ProviderPortal offers a convenient way to enter your order requests or check on the status of your previous orders. Go to https://www.providerportal.com to begin. Registration is required.

The following specialty-specific websites are available to help you learn more and access valuable information and tools, including order-entry checklists, clinical guidelines and frequently asked questions.
- Advanced imaging resources — http://www.aimspecialtyhealth.com/nextgen
- Cardiology resources — http://www.aimprovider.com/cardiology
- Radiation oncology resources — http://www.aimprovider.com/radoncology

For questions regarding your online order, please contact the AIM ProviderPortal Support Team at 1-800-252-2021.