

For brokers, general producers and full-service producers

Not intended for distribution to groups or members

November 15, 2018

Market: All

Prior Authorization for Genetic Tests

Effective January 1, 2019, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield and CareFirst BlueChoice, Inc. (CareFirst) will require all ordering providers to request a prior authorization for genetic tests to ensure members receive the right test for their needs. This policy has been in place for HMO plans, but it is a new requirement for PPO plans, and will create effective management across the commercial book of business and expand upon the existing policy to create a more comprehensive program.

CareFirst is working on a prior authorization program with AIM Specialty Health® and InformedDNA® to support appropriate, affordable genetic testing services across all medical specialties and subspecialties. More information about the genetic test prior authorization program will be shared soon, including a flier highlighting the program benefits.

Member Notification

The following required notification will be posted on the [member website](#) (under the Recent Updates section) on November 15:

Prior Authorization Required for Genetic Tests

Effective January 1, 2019, your doctor is required to request a prior authorization for genetic tests to ensure you receive the right test for your needs and it is covered under your benefits.

Definitions

- Genetic test - a type of medical test that can reveal changes in your genes that may cause illness or disease.
- Prior authorization - a process used to determine whether a prescribed procedure, service or medication is covered and/or medically necessary.

Please contact your CareFirst broker sales representative with any questions.

CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield is the shared business name of CareFirst of Maryland, Inc. and Group Hospitalization and Medical Services, Inc. CareFirst of Maryland, Inc., Group Hospitalization and Medical Services, Inc., CareFirst BlueChoice, Inc., The Dental Network and First Care, Inc. are independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. In the District of Columbia and Maryland, CareFirst MedPlus is the business name of First Care, Inc. In Virginia, CareFirst MedPlus is the business name of First Care, Inc. of Maryland (used in VA by: First Care, Inc.). The Blue Cross and Blue Shield Names and Symbols are registered trademarks of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. ® Registered trademark of CareFirst of Maryland, Inc.

AIM Specialty Health® is an independent company that provides clinical solutions for CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield members. AIM does not sell BlueCross or BlueShield products.

InformedDNA® is an independent company that provides genetic services for CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield members. InformedDNA does not sell BlueCross or BlueShield products.