

For brokers, general producers and full-service producers

Not intended for distribution to groups or members

December 14, 2018

Market: All

Updates on Genetic Testing Prior Authorization Program

As a follow-up to the [November 15 flash](#), this communication provides updates regarding our new genetic testing prior authorization program. Notably, the effective date has been pushed back one month from January 1 to February 1, 2019.

To help ensure our members are receiving the correct genetic test for their specific needs, effective February 1, 2019, CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield and CareFirst BlueChoice, Inc. (CareFirst) will require all ordering providers to request a prior authorization for genetic tests. CareFirst is working with two leaders in the field of genetic testing—AIM Specialty Health® and InformedDNA®—to provide a comprehensive genetic test prior authorization program for our members.

- AIM provides specialty benefits management for health plans nationwide
- InformedDNA is the nation's largest independent provider of expert genetics counselors

This program will help CareFirst:

- Manage appropriate, affordable genetic testing services
- Confirm prescribed procedures are medically necessary and a covered benefit
- Provide members with genetic counselors who can help clearly explain patient risk, the meaning of test results and more

Member notification

The following required notification on the [member website](#) (under the *Recent Updates* section) has been updated with the new effective date.

Prior Authorization Required for Genetic Tests

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

Definitions

- Genetic tests - a type of medical test that can reveal changes in your genes that may cause illness or disease.

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 and is solely responsible for the clinical solutions it provides.

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

- Prior authorization - a process used to determine whether a prescribed procedure, service or medication is covered and/or medically necessary.

Please review the [Genetic Testing Prior Authorization flier](#) and contact your CareFirst broker sales representative with any questions.

