

Blue Choice PPOSM and Blue High Performance Network[®] (BlueHPN)[®] Provider Manual –Filing Claims – Ancillary Services

Important note:

Throughout this provider manual there will be instances when there are references unique to Blue Choice PPO, Blue High Performance Network, Blue Edge, EPO and the Federal Employee Program. These specific requirements will be noted with the plan/network name. If a Plan/network name is not specifically listed or "Plan" is referenced, the information will apply to all PPO products.

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Ancillary Services Overview

It is important that providers submit ancillary claims accurately and completely. To assist, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas has provided the following information and guidelines. In addition, refer to the **Clinical Payment and Coding Policies** on the provider website for specific information.

Prior Authoriza- tions and Recommended Clinical Reviews

Either BCBSTX Medical Management or Carelon may be responsible for prior authorization or recommended clinical review for certain ancillary services.

Providers should refer to **Utilization Management** or the **Carelon** pages on the BCBSTX provider website and check eligibility and benefits through Availity® or their preferred vendor to determine prior authorization requirements and who to contact.

RCR is recommended for medical necessity to determine benefit coverage when there is no prior authorization requirement for the service. Refer to the [Recommended Clinical Review](#) page on the provider website for more information. Providers can submit RCR requests electronically through the [Availity Attachments Tool](#) or fax completed RCR Forms to **1-888-579-7935**. RCR is available for certain services through Carelon effective 9/1/2024.

Services performed without prior authorization or that do not meet medical necessity criteria may be denied for payment and the rendering provider may not seek reimbursement from the member.

Prior authorization merely confirms the Medical Necessity of the service or admission, but does not guarantee payment. Payment will be determined after the claim is filed and is subject to the following:

- Eligibility
 - Other contractual provisions and limitations, including, but not limited to:
 - Cosmetic procedures
 - Failure to call on a timely basis (Prior to delivery of services)
 - Limitations contained in riders, if any
-

Diabetic Education

Diabetic education must be administered by or under the direct supervision of a physician. The program should provide medical, nursing and nutritional assessments, individualized health care plans, goal setting and instructions in diabetes self-management skills.

Claims filing instructions: Must use diabetes as the primary ICD-10 diagnosis for the claim to be paid. The V code for the education/counseling would be listed as the secondary diagnosis.

- Use **CMS-1500** claim form
 - Use diabetes as the primary ICD-10 diagnosis
Use appropriate procedure codes for services rendered
 - File with your National Provider Identifier number
-

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Durable Medical Equipment

Blue Choice PPO describes Durable Medical Equipment as being items which can withstand repeated use; are primarily used to serve a medical purpose, are generally not useful to a person in the absence of illness, injury, or disease, and are appropriate for use in the patient’s home.

DME Benefits

Benefits should be provided for the DME when the equipment is prescribed by a physician within the scope of his license and does not serve as a comfort or convenience item.

Benefits should be provided for the following:

1. Rental Charge (but not to exceed the total cost of purchase) or at the option of the Plan, the purchase of DME.
2. Repair, adjustment, or replacement of components and accessories necessary for effective functioning of covered equipment.
3. Supplies and accessories necessary for the effective functioning of covered DME. For additional information on supplies for TENS units, refer to [Proper Billing for Supplies for Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation Units.](#)

**Benefits are subject to the subscriber’s individual or group contract provisions.

Custom DME

When billing for “customized” DME or Prosthetic/Orthotic devices, an item must be specially constructed to meet a patient’s specific need. The following items do not meet these requirements:

- An adjustable brace with velcro closures
- A pull-on elastic brace
- A light weigh, high-strength wheelchair with padding added

A prescription is needed to justify the customized equipment and should indicate the reason the patient required a customized item. Physical therapy records or physician records can be submitted as documentation. An invoice should be included for any item that has been provided to construct a customized piece of DME or any P&O device for which a procedure codes does not exist.

Repair of DME

Repairs of DME equipment are covered if:

- Equipment is being purchased or already owned by the patient,
 - Medically Necessary, and
 - The repair is necessary to make the equipment serviceable.
-

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Replacement Parts

Replacement parts such as hoses, tubing, batteries, etc., are covered when necessary for effective operation of a purchased item.

DME Rental or Purchase

The rental versus purchase decision is between the patient and supplier. However, the rental of any equipment should not extend more than 10 months duration. If the prescription indicates “lifetime” need, the supplier should attempt to sell the equipment as opposed to renting.

DME Prior Authorization or RCR

Prior authorization or RCR determines whether medical services are:

- Medically necessary
 - Provided in the appropriate setting or the appropriate level of care
 - Of a quality and frequency generally accepted by the medical community
 - Check eligibility and benefits through your Availity or your preferred vendor to determine prior authorization requirements or if RCR is available.
-

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Prescription or Certificate of Medical Necessity

A prescription or Certificate of Medical Necessity is required to accompany all claims for DME rentals or purchase. The prescription or CMN also must be signed by the member's attending physician/professional provider.

When a physician/professional provider completes and signs the CMN, he or she is attesting that the information indicated on the form is correct and that the requested services are Medically Necessary. The CMN must specify the following:

- Member's name
- Diagnosis
- Type of equipment
- Medical Necessity for requesting the equipment
- Date and duration of expected use

The Certificate of Medical Necessity is not required in the following circumstances:

- The claim is for an eligible prosthetic or orthotic device that does not require prior medical review;
- The place of treatment billed for durable medical equipment or supplies is inpatient, outpatient or office;
- The individual line item for durable medical equipment or supplies billed is less than \$500.00 and the place of treatment is in the home or other;
- The claim is for durable medical equipment rental and is billed with the RR modifier; or
- The claim is for CPAP or Bi-Pap and there is a sleep study claim in file with BCBSTX that has been processed and paid. Sleep study (Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) codes include but are not limited to 95806-95811.

These guidelines apply to fully insured members as well as self-funded employer groups who have opted to follow these guidelines. However, this may not apply to members with the Federal Employee Plan benefits or those from other Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans. To determine if a Certificate of Medical Necessity is required, please call the telephone number listed on the back of your patient's member ID card.

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Life-Sustaining DME

Life-Sustaining Durable Medical Equipment is paid as a perpetual rental during the entire period of medical need.

- The vendor owns the DME. The vendor is responsible for monitoring the functional state of the DME and initiating maintenance or repair as needed. The vendor is likewise responsible for conducting the technical maintenance, repair and replacement of the DME. The rental payments to the vendor from BCBSTX cover these services.
- When the period of medical need is over, possession of the DME returns to the vendor.
- Attachments, replacement parts and all supplies and equipment ancillary to Life-Sustaining DME are considered included in the monthly rental payment. This includes refills of both gaseous and liquid oxygen.
- BCBSTX does not recognize or support member-owned DME previously obtained from another source.

Life Sustaining DME List

HCPCS* Code	Description BCBSTX Life Sustaining DME
E0424	Stationary compressed gas O2
E0431	Portable gaseous O2 and tubing
E0433	Portable liquid oxygen sys
E0434	Portable liquid O2
E0439	Stationary liquid O2
E0441	Stationary O2 contents, gas
E0442	Stationary O2 contents, liq
E0443	Portable O2 contents, gas
E0444	Portable O2 contents, liquid
E0465	Home vent invasive interface
E0466	Home vent non-invasive inter
E0481	Intrpulmnry percuss vent sys
E0618	Apnea monitor
E0619	Apnea monitor w/ recording feature

*HCPCS -Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System

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Life Sustaining DME List, cont'd

HCPCS Code	Description BCBSTX Life Sustaining DME
E1390	Oxygen concentrator
E1391	Oxygen concentrator, dual
E1392	Portable oxygen concentrator
E1590	Hemodialysis machine
E1592	Auto interm peritoneal dialy
E1594	Cycler dialysis machine
K0738	Portable gas oxygen system
S8120	O2 contents gas cubic ft
S8121	O2 contents liquid lb

Home Infusion Therapy

- Please make sure all claims are filed with your NPI number electronically or on a **CMS-1500** claim form.
- Reference the **Home Infusion Clinical Payment and Coding Policy**
- A service found on the HIT schedule, as well as the drugs used, will require prior authorization.

Note: All services/drugs that will be administered must be listed in the authorization or they will be denied.

- Providers should refer to "Factor Products" as identified in the Home Infusion Therapy Drug Schedule posted on the BCBSTX provider website . The codes are subject to change in accordance with the terms of the agreement.
- **Nursing Visits:** For nursing visits, prior authorize using CPT Codes 99601 and 99602.
For extended visits, prior authorize using CPT 99602.

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Home Infusion Therapy (HIT), cont.

- Always bill using a valid procedure code (CPT, HCPCS and National Drug Code for a drug and identify the appropriate number of units administered in Field 24g of the CMS-1500 (02/12) form. For example, if the procedure code defines the drug as 1 gram and you administered 20 grams, the CMS-1500 (02/12) form should reflect 20 units. Please note that J3490 should only be used if there is not a valid procedure code for the administered drug, in which case you would then bill using J-3490 and the respective NDC number.
- If billing for two or more concurrent therapies, use the appropriate modifiers:
 - **SH** – Second concurrent administered infusion therapy
 - **SJ** – Third or more concurrently administered infusion therapy
- Per diems not otherwise classified should only be prior authorized if the HIT services are not defined in an established per diem code.

The per diem for aerosolized drug therapy (S9061) does not include the cost of the nebulizer. The nebulizer must be purchased or rented through a PPO contracted Durable Medical Equipment supplier.

- The HIT per diems include supplies and equipment. For example, IV poles, infusion pumps, tubing, etc. Refer below to a list of HCPCS codes that will be considered incidental to the per diem code
-

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**Services
Incidental
to Home
Infusion
and
Injection
Therapy Per
Diem**

Miscellaneous Supplies and Services	
A4206-A4210	G0001
A4212-A4247	Q0081-Q0085
A4454-A4455	S9430
Vascular Catheters	
A4300-A4306	
Enteral Nutrition Medical Supplies	
B4034-B4086	
Parenteral Nutrition Solutions and Supplies	
B4164-B5200	
Enteral and Parenteral Pumps	
B9000-B9999	
Infusion Supplies	
E0776-E0830	
K0455 S1015	

**Home
Infusion
Therapy
Schedule**

Codes and pricing are listed on the BCBSTX website under **Standards and Requirements** then **General Reimbursement Information**. Providers must verify codes and pricing prior to rendering services.

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Imaging Centers

- File claims electronically with BCBSTX or submit **CMS-1500**
 - Must use CPT-4 coding structure
 - Use the correct modifier appropriate to the service you are billing (i.e., total component, technical only, etc.)
 - All “not other classified” procedure codes should be submitted with as much descriptive information as possible
 - Must itemize all services and bill standard retail rates
 - Must file with your NPI number
 - Be sure to include NDC number for any oral or injectable radio pharmaceutical or contrast material used
-

Imaging Procedures Prior Authori- zation or RCR Managed by Carelon

BCBSTX is contracted with the Carelon for certain radiology services:

Carelon may require prior authorization, recommended clinical review and post service medical necessity review for certain outpatient imaging services.

For details on specific services including specific procedure codes that require prior authorization or RCR, refer to the [Carelon](#) and [Utilization Management](#) pages on the BCBSTX provider website.

When prior authorization or RCR are needed through Carelon, ordering physicians for **Plan** patients must contact Carelon to obtain an order request number.

Ordering physicians must write the order request number on the requisition for the imaging study. The ordering physician/professional provider is required to contact Carelon, whether the ordering provider is the PCP or the specialist. The PCP will not be expected to obtain the order request number if a specialist orders the test. **The order request number must be on the performing provider’s claim form UB-04 or CMS-1500s.**

When the ordering physician/professional provider submits the order through the Carelon ProviderPortal, they will experience suggestions to include imaging sites that have an “A” score. Please note: The ordering provider will still be able to search for additional servicing providers in your network.

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**Imaging
Procedures
Prior
Authori-
zation or
RCR
Managed by
Carelton,
cont.**

Performing providers (hospitals and freestanding imaging) may confirm that an order request number was issued as well as clinical guidelines and other educational resource by accessing [Carelton's interactive website](#).

When contacted, Carelon will either issue an order request number or forward the case to a registered nurse or physician for review. Carelon's physician reviewer may contact the ordering physician/provider to discuss the case in greater detail within two business days of receipt of the request. Ordering physicians must write the order request number on the requisition for the imaging study. Issuance of a order request number is not a guarantee of payment. When submitted, the claim will be processed in accordance with the terms of a subscriber's health benefit plan.

The Carelon process is based upon guidelines from medical organizations and medical literature. The guidelines are consistent with the clinical appropriateness criteria developed by the American College of Radiology. Carelon promotes:

- Ordering the most appropriate outpatient diagnostic or advanced imaging for the diagnosis in question while minimizing unnecessary radiation exposure,
 - Performing studies in the proper sequence, and
 - Maximizing service to subscribers through the efficient use of their benefit plan.
-

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Imaging Center Tests Not Typically Covered

Imaging center tests not typically covered may include but are not limited to:

- **70371** – Speech evaluation complex
- **76000** – Fluoroscopy, 1hr phys/qhp
- **76140** – X-ray consultation
- **76511** – Ophth US quant only
- **76512** – Ophth US w/non quant A
- **76513** – Echo exam of eye waterbath
- **76516** – Echo exam of eye
- **76519** – Echo exam of eye
- **76529** – Echo exam of eye
- **77058–77079** – MRI of the breast
- **78469** – IO radiation TX management
- **PET Scan**

For more information, call the Medical Care Management Department at **1-800-441-9188**.

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Independent Laboratory Claims Filing

- File claims electronically with BCBSTX or submit **CMS-1500**
 - Use CPT-4 coding structure
 - Must file with your NPI number
 - Must itemize all services and bill standard retail rates
-

Independent Laboratory Providers

Plan providers should refer members to in-network lab providers for outpatient lab services.

To locate participating labs in the Blue Choice PPO network, visit the online [Provider Directory](#) on the BCBSTX website.

Prior Authorization or RCR for Certain Outpatient Lab Services

BCBSTX is contracted with Carelon to manage prior authorization or RCR services for certain lab services.

Refer to the [Carelon](#) page for information on specific services requiring prior authorization or are applicable to RCR as well as how to submit these requests for services.

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Independent Laboratory Policy

- All not otherwise classified procedure codes should be submitted with as much descriptive information as possible.
- “STAT” charges are not reimbursable as a separate line item.
- The following diagnostic tests are not routinely covered without sufficient medical justification:
 - Amylase, blood, isoenzyme, electrophoretic
 - Autogenous vaccine
 - Calcium, feces, screening
 - Calcium saturation clotting time
 - Capillary fragility test (Rumpel-Leede)
 - Cephalin flocculation Congo red, blood
 - Chemotropism, duodenal contents
 - Chromium, blood
 - Circulation time, one test
 - Colloidal gold
 - Gastric analysis, pepsin
 - Gastric analysis, tubeless
 - Hormones, adrenocorticotropin, Quantitative, animal test
 - Hormones, adrenocorticotropin, Quantitative, bioassay
 - Skin test, lymphopathia verereum
 - Skin test, Brucellosis
 - Skin test, Leptospirosis
 - Skin test, Psittacosis
 - Skin test, Trichinodid
 - Thymol turbidity, blood
 - Zinc sulphate, turbidity, blood
- The following tests are the components of the Obstetrical Profile:
 - ABO type
 - Antibody screens for red cell antigens
 - CBC
 - RH type
 - Rubella titer
 - Serologic tests for syphilis
 - Sickle cell prep (*when appropriate*)

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Independent Laboratory – Non Covered Tests

- Assay of Appolipoprotein
- Automated hemogram
- Candida enzyme immunoassay
- Captopril challenge test
- Cervigram (cervicography)
- Cystic disease protein test
- Cytomegalovirus screening in pregnancy patients
- EDTA formalin assay
- Glucose blood, stick test
- Glycated albumin test
- Human tumor stem cell drug sensitivity assay
- Lipoprotein cholesterol fractionation calculation by formula
- Neopterin RI acid test
- Nonprotein nitrogen blood
- Provocative and neutralization testing for phenol and ethanol formaldehyde
- Radioimmunoassay not otherwise specified
- RIA urinary albumin
- Sperm penetration assay
- Sublingual provocative testing
- Transfer factor test
- Travel allowance for specimen pickup
- Urinary albumin excretion rate

Providers should check eligibility and benefits through Availity or their preferred vendor.

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Prosthetics/ Orthotics

- File claims electronically with BCBSTX or submit **CMS-1500**
- Must use HCPCS coding structure
- Need to submit complete documentation when using an NOC procedure code
- Must itemize all services and bill standard retail rates
- Must file with your NPI Number

Prosthetics & Orthotics – HCPCS Code Description – Non-Covered

Prosthetics & Orthotics not typically covered may include but are not limited to:

HCPCS Code	Description
N/A	Foot orthotics, bilateral
N/A	Foot orthotics, unilateral
N/A	Foot impressions, bilateral
N/A	Foot impressions, unilateral
N/A	Orthopedic Supports, cervical collar, immobilize slings
L3000	Ft insert ucb berkeley shell
L3001	Foot insert remov molded spe
L3002	Foot insert plastazote or eq
L3003	Foot insert silicone gel eac
L3010	Foot longitudinal arch suppo
L3030	Foot arch support remov prem
L3040	Ft arch suprt premold longit
L3050	Foot arch supp premold metat
L3060	Foot arch supp longitud/meta
L3070	Arch suprt att to sho longit
L3080	Arch supp att to shoe metata
L3090	Arch supp att to shoe long/m

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**Prosthetics &
Orthotics –
HCPCS Code
Description -
Non Covered,
cont.**

HCPCS Code	Description
L3100	Hallus-valgus nt dyn pre ots
L3170	Foot plas heel stabi pre ots
L3201	Oxford w supinat/pronat inf
L3202	Oxford w/ supinat/pronator c
L3203	Oxford w/ supinator/pronator
L3204	Hightop w/ supp/pronator inf
L3206	Hightop w/ supp/pronator chi
L3207	Hightop w/ supp/pronator jun
L3215	Orthopedic ftwear ladies oxf
L3216	Orthoped ladies shoes dpth i
L3217	Ladies shoes hightop depth i
L3219	Orthopedic mens shoes oxford
L3221	Orthopedic mens shoes dpth i
L3222	Mens shoes hightop depth inl
L3230	Custom shoes depth inlay
L3250	Custom mold shoe remov prost
L3251	Shoe molded to pt silicone s
L3252	Shoe molded plastazote cust
L3253	Shoe molded plastazote cust
L3254	Orth foot non-stdnd size/w
L3255	Orth foot non-standard size/
L3260	Ambulatory surgical boot eac
L3265	Plastazote sandal each

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**Prosthetics &
Orthotics –
HCPCS Code
Description -
Orthotics –
Non-Covered**
cont.

HCPCS Code	Description
L3300	Sho lift taper to metatarsal
L3310	Shoe lift elev heel/sole neo
L3320	Shoe lift elev heel/sole cor
L3330	Lifts elevation metal extens
L3332	Shoe lifts tapered to one-ha
L3334	Shoe lifts elevation heel /i
L3340	Shoe wedge sock
L3350	Shoe heel wedge
L3360	Shoe sole wedge outside sole
L3370	Shoe sole wedge between sole
L3380	Shoe clubfoot wedge
L3390	Shoe outflare wedge
L3430	Sho heel count plast reinfor
L3440	Heel leather reinforced
L3450	Shoe heel sach cushion type
L3455	Shoe heel new leather standa
L3460	Shoe heel new rubber standar
L3465	Shoe heel thomas with wedge
L3470	Shoe heel thomas extend to b
L3480	Shoe heel pad & depress for
L3485	Shoe heel pad removable for
L3500	Ortho shoe add leather insol
L3510	Orthopedic shoe add rub insl
L3520	O shoe add felt w leath insl
L3530	Ortho shoe add half sole

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Prosthetics & Orthotics – HCPCS Code Description - Orthotics – Non Covered, cont.

HCPCS Code	Description
L3540	Ortho shoe add full sole
L3550	O shoe add standard toe tap
L3560	O shoe add horseshoe toe tap
L3649	Orthopedic shoe modifica NOS
A6530	Compression stocking BK18-30
A6531	Compression stocking BK30-40
A6532	Compression stocking BK40-50
A6533	Gc stocking thighlngh 18-30
A6534	Gc stocking thighlngh 30-40
A6535	Gc stocking thighlngh 40-50
A6536	Gc stocking full lngth 18-30
A6537	Gc stocking full lngth 30-40
A6538	Gc stocking full lngth 40-50
A6539	Gc stocking waistlngh 18-30
A6540	Gc stocking waistlngh 30-40
A6541	Gc stocking waistlngh 40-50
A6544	Gc stocking garter belt
S9999	Sales tax

Providers should check eligibility and benefits through Availity or their preferred vendor.

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Radiation Therapy Center Claims Filing

- Must use appropriate CMS-1500 claim form or electronic equivalent
Note: Use UB-04 or electronic equivalent, if a facility; or
Use CMS-1500 if a free-standing facility
- Must bill negotiated rates according to fees stated in contract.
- May use CPT code as part of description, but **must have correct** revenue codes if using UB-04.
- When the member's coverage requires a PCP referral, form locator 63 must be completed with a referral authorization number obtained from BCBSTX.
- Must file with your NPI number

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Availity is a trademark of Availity, LLC, a separate company that operates a health information network to provide electronic information exchange services to medical professionals. Availity provides administrative services to BCBSTX.

Carelon Medical Benefits Management is an independent company that has contracted with BCBSTX to provide utilization management services for members with coverage through BCBSTX.

BCBSTX makes no endorsement, representations or warranties regarding third party vendors and the products and services they offer.