



STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR
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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
CHARLES J. KROGMEIER, DIRECTOR

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 876

DATE: January 28, 2010

TO: Iowa Medicaid Hospitals, Physicians, Dentists, Podiatrists, Rural Health Clinics, Clinics, Maternal Health Centers, Certified Nurse Midwives, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Nurse Practitioners and Indian Health Service Providers

ISSUED BY: Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise

RE: High Technology Radiology Prior Authorizations

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2010

As you have already been notified via your remittance advice and from other public comments, the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME) will be implementing an online prior authorization (PA) system, McKesson's Clear Coverage™, available on March 1, 2010, for certain **elective** outpatient high technology radiologic tests. For these tests provided on and after March 1, 2010, a PA must be obtained by the ordering provider. The ordering provider must give the PA confirmation number to the radiology provider for inclusion on the claim.

Prior authorization will not be required for procedures that occur during inpatient hospital or emergency room visits. Iowa Medicaid will identify these claims by having a place of service 21 or 23 on a CMS-1500 or the inclusion of revenue code 45X on UB04 claims indicating services were provided in the emergency room.

While this requirement is to help ensure the best use of Medicaid funds, we understand that this PA requirement is new and creates an additional step for the ordering provider. To minimize the impact, this fully automated web-based system includes useful decision support features available to all providers, free of charge. You may already be familiar with this type of system from your interaction with commercial insurance payers. Here are some highlights:

- *Automatic authorization:* real-time for most requests
 - Provides immediate proof of authorization while member is in your office
 - Printable confirmation with authorization number
 - Submit requests 24/7
 - Minimal need for phone calls or faxes
- *Clinical decision support:* automated, interactive tool with InterQual® Criteria
 - Confirms evidence basis for requested imaging or recommends alternatives
 - Clearly verifies if authorization is required for specific types of imaging
 - Printable clinical evidence summaries for use in your practice

Services that will require PA include Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRIs), Computed Tomography (CTs), Computed Tomographic Angiographs (CTAs), Positron Emission Tomography (PETs), and Magnetic Resonance Angiography (MRAs). All details around this requirement, including the specific codes requiring a PA and training materials for using McKesson's Clear Coverage™ are listed at:

<http://www.ime.state.ia.us/Providers/PriorAuthorization.html>

Available Training

An **on-line** rapid training course via webinar will be available after February 15, 2010, for all ordering providers or their representatives. We recommend that the course be completed to ensure your authorizations are processed as promptly as possible. The training takes less than one hour and is located at: <http://www.ime.state.ia.us/Providers/PriorAuthorization.html>. This site will also offer availability to:

- Clear Coverage link for processing your authorizations
- A detailed training guide
- Frequently asked questions with answers
- The list of codes requiring authorization

Requesting Login

After February 1, 2010, ordering providers must receive an access code for the Clear Coverage system by e-mailing PAservices@dhs.state.ia.us. Please include the following information in your e-mail:

- a. The name of the organization (e.g., Northwest Community Hospital, Grand Avenue Clinic, etc.)
- b. The address of the organization
- c. Your Provider Number (7 digit Medicaid provider number or NPI)
- d. Tax ID Number
- e. The name of the primary point of contact for the organization and role within the organization (e.g., physician, office assistant, prior authorization nurse, etc)
- f. Telephone number for the primary contact
- g. E-mail address

The Radiology PA login request form to be fully completed with your responses and e-mailed to PAservices@dhs.state.ia.us is posted at <http://www.ime.state.ia.us/Providers/PriorAuthorization.html>.

Minimum Computer Requirements

If you do not meet the minimum requirements to use McKesson's Clear Coverage™ you must submit a Radiology PA Exception Form. The exception form and minimum requirements are posted at <http://www.ime.state.ia.us/Providers/PriorAuthorization.html>. For questions pertaining to login issues contact the IME Medical Services unit, 1-888-424-2070, locally 256-4624 or by e-mail at PAservices@dhs.state.ia.us.

We are looking forward to collaborating with you on this new type of authorization. If you have any questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit, 1-800-338-7909, locally 515-256-4609 or by e-mail at imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us.