

## Expansion of AIM Musculoskeletal Program effective November 1, 2020

Published: Aug 1, 2020 - **Policy Updates** / Medical Policy & Clinical Guidelines

Effective November 1, 2020, the AIM Musculoskeletal Program will be expanded to include medical necessity reviews for certain elective surgeries of the small joints for Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield members. AIM Specialty Health® (AIM) will perform the expanded musculoskeletal program and will review certain lower extremity small joint surgeries for clinical appropriateness of the procedure and the setting in which the procedure is performed (level of care review). The clinical guidelines adopted by Anthem and used by AIM to review for medical necessity and level of care are located here: [AIM Small Joint Surgery Guideline](#) and AIM Level of Care Guidelines for Musculoskeletal Surgery and Procedures.

AIM will begin accepting prior authorization requests on October 26, 2020, for dates of service on and after November 1, 2020. To determine if prior authorization is required, please call the prior authorization number located on the back of the member's ID card.

### Members included in the new program

All fully insured and administrative services only (ASO) members currently participating in the AIM Musculoskeletal Program are included. For ASO groups that currently do not participate in the AIM Musculoskeletal Program, the program will be offered to ASOs to add to their members' benefit package as of November 1, 2020.

### Prior authorization review requirements

For surgeries scheduled to begin on or after November 1, 2020, all providers must contact AIM to obtain prior authorization for the following non-emergency modalities:

#### Small joint replacement (including all associated revision surgeries)

- Total joint replacement of ankle
- Correction of Hallux Valgus
- Hammertoe repair

Surgeries performed as part of an inpatient admission are included.

**To place a review request:**

- **Online:** Get fast, convenient, online service via the AIM *ProviderPortal*<sub>SM</sub>, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, processing requests in real-time using clinical criteria. Go to [aimspecialtyhealth.com/goweb](https://aimspecialtyhealth.com/goweb) to register.
- **Phone:** Call AIM Specialty Health toll-free at 800-554-0580, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**For more information:**

Go to [www.aimprovider.com/msk](https://www.aimprovider.com/msk) for resources to help your practice get started with the musculoskeletal and pain management program. Our [website](#) provides access to helpful information and tools such as order entry checklists, clinical guidelines and FAQs.

We value your participation in our network and look forward to working with you to help improve the health of our members.

571-0820-PN-CNT

**URL:** <https://providernews.anthem.com/missouri/article/expansion-of-aim-musculoskeletal-program-effective-november-1-2020-2>

**Featured In:**

August 2020 Anthem Provider News - Kentucky, August 2020 Anthem Provider News - Missouri

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield is the trade name of: In Colorado Rocky Mountain Hospital and Medical Service, Inc. HMO products underwritten by HMO Colorado, Inc. In Connecticut: Anthem Health Plans, Inc. In Georgia: Blue Cross Blue Shield Healthcare Plan of Georgia, Inc. In Indiana: Anthem Insurance Companies, Inc. In Kentucky: Anthem Health Plans of Kentucky, Inc. In Maine: Anthem Health Plans of Maine, Inc. In Missouri (excluding 30 counties in the Kansas City area): RightCHOICE® Managed Care, Inc. (RIT), Healthy Alliance® Life Insurance Company (HALIC), and HMO Missouri, Inc. RIT and certain affiliates administer non-HMO benefits underwritten by HALIC and HMO benefits underwritten by HMO Missouri, Inc. RIT and certain affiliates only provide administrative services for self-funded plans and do not underwrite benefits. In Nevada: Rocky Mountain Hospital and Medical Service, Inc. HMO products underwritten by HMO Colorado, Inc. dba HMO Nevada. In New Hampshire: Anthem Health Plans of New Hampshire, Inc. HMO plans are administered by Anthem Health Plans of New Hampshire, Inc. and underwritten by Matthew Thornton Health Plan, Inc. In Ohio: Community Insurance Company. In Virginia: Anthem Health Plans of Virginia, Inc. trades as Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Virginia, and its service area is all of Virginia except for the City of Fairfax, the Town of Vienna, and the area east of State Route 123. In Wisconsin: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wisconsin (BCBSWI), which underwrites or administers the PPO and indemnity policies and underwrites the out of network benefits in POS policies offered by CompCare or WCIC; CompCare Health Services Insurance Corporation (CompCare) underwrites or administers the HMO policies and Wisconsin Collaborative Insurance Company (WCIC) underwrites or administers Well Priority HMO or POS policies. Independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. Anthem is a registered trademark of Anthem Insurance Companies, Inc. The Blue Cross and Blue Shield names and symbols are registered marks of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. Use of the Anthem websites constitutes your agreement with our Terms of Use.

---