



An Anthem Company

NEW YORK Provider Communications

REMINDER: Expansion of AIM Musculoskeletal Program Effective November 1, 2020

Published: Oct 1, 2020 - Products & Programs

As recently communicated in the [August 2020 edition](#) of Empire BlueCross BlueShield (“Empire”) Provider News, AIM Specialty Health® (AIM), a specialty health benefits company, will expand the AIM Musculoskeletal program to perform medical necessity reviews for certain elective surgeries of the small joints for Empire Blue Cross members effective November 1, 2020. Replacement and revision surgeries for procedures such as total joint of ankle, correction of Hallux Valgus, hammertoe repair are included.

The AIM Musculoskeletal Program follows the Empire Clinical Guidelines that state the services must be delivered by a qualified provider within the scope of their licensure. Qualified providers acting within the scope of their license, including podiatrists, who intend to perform certain elective surgeries of the small joints procedures should request prior-authorization for those services through AIM.

AIM will begin accepting prior authorization requests on October 26, 2020 for dates of service on and after November 1, 2020 and after. Prior authorization requests may be submitted via the *AIM ProviderPortal* or by calling AIM 1-877-430-2288, Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. ET.

Empire invites you to take advantage of upcoming training sessions that will introduce you to the program and the robust capabilities of the AIM *ProviderPortal*_{SM}. You can register for the 1 hour training sessions: [AIM MSK Small Joint Expansion Training Session 1](#) on Friday, October 23, 2020, 11am CT or [AIM MSK Small Joint Expansion Training Session 2](#) on Monday, October 26, 2020, 12am CT.

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

649-1020-PN-NY

URL: <https://providernews.empireblue.com/article/reminder-expansion-of-aim-musculoskeletal-program-effective-november-1-2020-4>

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October 2020 Empire Provider News

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