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Information from Anthem for Care Providers about COVID-19

Published: Apr 1, 2020 - **Administrative**

For the most up-to-date information from Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield about COVID-19, please bookmark/add to favorites [Provider News Home](#) and check back often.

URL: <https://providernews.anthem.com/kentucky/article/information-from-anthem-for-care-providers-about-covid-19-16>

Anthem continues focus on updates to our public provider website

Published: Apr 1, 2020 - **Administrative**

At Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield (Anthem), we continue to make changes to our public provider website to make it easier for you to find the information you need. The end of Q1 brings a few updates for the site at [anthem.com](#):

- Information has been added to our website regarding Patient-Centered Specialty Care (PCSC) – Anthem’s value-based payment program for cardiology, endocrinology and obstetrics/gynecology providers. You can find this information online as an extension of our broader patient-centered, value-based care program – Enhanced Personal Health Care (EPHC).
- Documents listed on the Prior Authorization page can be conveniently accessed via online links.
- Medicare Advantage will be live in the coming days. You will be able to view updated Medicare Advantage pages on the commercial public sites.”
- Medical Policies (MP) and Clinical Utilization Management Guidelines (CUMG) now display on our newly designed Web pages.

If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Fraser at michelle.fraser@anthem.com or Nick Kizirnis at nick.kirzinis@anthem.com.

URL: <https://providernews.anthem.com/kentucky/article/anthem-continues-focus-on-updates-to-our-public-provider-website-2>

Provider Transparency Update

Published: Apr 1, 2020 - **Administrative**

A key goal of Anthem's provider transparency initiatives is to improve quality while managing health care costs. One of the ways is through Anthem's value-based programs such as *Enhanced Personal Health Care, Bundled Payment Programs, Oncology Medical Home, and so on* – called the "Programs." Certain providers ("Value-Based Program Providers" also known as "Payment Innovation Providers") in Anthem's various value-based programs receive quality, utilization and/or cost data, reports, and information about the health care providers ("Referral Providers") to whom the Value-Based Program Providers may refer their patients covered under the Programs. If a Referral Provider is higher quality and/or lower cost, this component of the Programs should result in the provider getting more referrals from Value-Based Program Providers. The converse should be true if Referral Providers are lower quality and/or higher cost.

Providing this type of data, including comparative cost information, to Value Based Program Providers helps them make more informed decisions about managing health care costs and maintaining and improving quality of care. It also helps them succeed under the terms of the Programs.

Additionally, employers and group health plans (or their representatives or vendors) may also be given quality/cost/utilization information about Value Based Program Providers and Referral Providers so that they can better understand how their health care dollars are being spent and how their health benefits plans are being administered. This will, among other things, give them the opportunity to educate their employees and plan members about the benefits of using higher quality and/or lower cost health care providers.

Anthem will share data on which it relied in making these quality/cost/utilization evaluations upon request, and will discuss it with Referral Providers, including any opportunities for improvement. For questions or support, please refer to your local Network Representative or Care Consultant.

URL: <https://providernews.anthem.com/kentucky/article/provider-transparency-update-23>

Anthem acquires Beacon Health Options

Published: Mar 2, 2020 - **Administrative**

Anthem completed its acquisition of Beacon Health Options, a large behavioral health organization that serves more than 36 million people across the country. The company will operate as a wholly owned subsidiary of Anthem.

Bringing together our existing solid behavioral health business with Beacon's successful model and support services creates one of the most comprehensive behavioral health networks in the country. It's also an opportunity to offer best-in-class behavioral health capabilities and whole person care solutions in new and meaningful ways to help people live their best lives.

From the standpoint of our customers and providers at this time, it's business as usual:

- Members should continue to call the customer service number on the back of their membership card or access their health plan's website for online self-service.
- Providers should continue to use the provider service contact information, websites and online self-service portals as part of their agreement with either Anthem or Beacon.
- There will be no immediate changes to the way Anthem or Beacon manage their respective provider networks, contracts and fee arrangements. Anthem and Beacon provider networks, contracts and fee arrangements will remain separate at this time.

We know our providers continue to expect more of their healthcare partner, and at Anthem, we aim to deliver more in return.

For more details, please see the [press release](#).

URL: <https://providernews.anthem.com/kentucky/article/anthem-acquires-beacon-health-options-6>

Anthem prior authorization updates for specialty pharmacy are available - April 2020

Published: Apr 1, 2020 - **Products & Programs** / Pharmacy

Prior authorization updates

Effective for dates of service on and after July 1, 2020, the following specialty pharmacy codes from current or new clinical criteria documents will be included in our prior authorization review process.

Please note, inclusion of NDC code on your claim will shorten the claim processing time of drugs billed with a Not Otherwise Classified (NOC) code.

To access the clinical criteria document information please visit <https://www11.anthem.com/pharmacyinformation/clinicalcriteria.html>.

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield (Anthem)'s prior authorization clinical review of non-oncology specialty pharmacy drugs will be managed by Anthem's medical specialty drug review team.

Review of specialty pharmacy drugs for oncology indications will be managed by AIM Specialty Health® (AIM), a separate company and are in italics.

Clinical Criteria	HCPCS or CPT Code(s)	Drug
<i>*ING-CC-0003</i>	<i>C9399 J3490 J3590</i>	<i>Xembify</i>
ING-CC-0062	J3590	Eticovo
ING-CC-0062	J3490	Hadlima
ING-CC-0072	J0179	Bevou
ING-CC-0152	J3490	Vyondys 53
ING-CC-0153	C9399 J3490 J3590	Adakveo
ING-CC-0154	C9399 J3490 J3590	Givlaari

* Non-oncology use is managed by Anthem's medical specialty drug review team.
Oncology use is managed by AIM.

Step therapy updates

Effective for dates of service on and after July 1, 2020, the following specialty pharmacy codes from new or current clinical criteria will be included in our existing specialty pharmacy medical step therapy review process.

Orencia will be the non-preferred agent for rheumatoid arthritis, polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis and psoriatic arthritis. The table below will assist you in identifying the applicable preferred agents and clinical criteria.

To access the clinical criteria document information please visit <https://www11.anthem.com/pharmacyinformation/clinicalcriteria.html>.

Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)

Clinical Criteria	HCPCS or CPT Code	Preferred Agents	Clinical Criteria	HCPCS or CPT Code	Non-Preferred Agent
ING-CC-0062	J1438	Enbrel	ING-CC-0078	J0129	Orencia
ING-CC-0062	J0135	Humira			
ING-CC-0062	J3590	Simponi			
ING-CC-0062	J1602	Simponi Aria			
ING-CC-0062	J1745	Remicade			

Polyarticular Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (PJIA)

Clinical Criteria	HCPCS or CPT Code	Preferred Agents	Clinical Criteria	HCPCS or CPT Code	Non-Preferred Agent
ING-CC-0062	J1438	Enbrel	ING-CC-0078	J0129	Orencia
ING-CC-0062	J0135	Humira			

Psoriatic Arthritis (PsA)

Clinical Criteria	HCPCS or CPT Code	Preferred Agents	Clinical Criteria	HCPCS or CPT Code	Non-Preferred Agent
ING-CC-0042	C9399 J3490 J3590	Cosentyx	ING-CC-0078	J0129	Orencia
ING-CC-0062	J1438	Enbrel			
ING-CC-0062	J0135	Humira			
ING-CC-0062	J3590	Simponi			
ING-CC-0062	J1602	Simponi Aria			
ING-CC-0062	J1745	Remicade			
ING-CC-0063	J3357	Stelara			

URL: <https://providernews.anthem.com/kentucky/article/anthem-prior-authorization-updates-for-specialty-pharmacy-are-available-april-2020-1>

Anthem to delay most April 1, 2020 formulary list updates for commercial health plan pharmacy benefit

Published: Apr 1, 2020 - Products & Programs / Pharmacy

In light of the current situation with COVID-19, we have decided to delay the implementation of many of the previously-communicated formulary changes scheduled for April 1, 2020.

The changes listed below will still go into effect on April 1, 2020:

	National/Preferred Drug List	Traditional Open Drug List	Essential Drug List
Antihistamines			
carbinoxamine 6mg	Tier 1 -> NF	Tier 1 -> Tier 3	Tier 1 -> NF
Topical Anesthetics			
Lidocaine 7%-Tetracaine 7% cream	Tier 3/NF -> NF	Tier 3 (No Change)	NF (No Change)
Pliaglis cream	Tier 3/NF -> NF	Tier 3 (No Change)	NF (No Change)

Please note, this update does not apply to the Select Drug List and does not impact Medicaid and Medicare plans.

URL: <https://providernews.anthem.com/kentucky/article/anthem-to-delay-most-april-1-2020-formulary-list-updates-for-commercial-health-plan-pharmacy-benefit-1>

Pharmacy information available at anthem.com

Published: Mar 1, 2020 - **Products & Programs** / Pharmacy

Visit [anthem.com/pharmacyinformation](https://www.anthem.com/pharmacyinformation) for more information on:

- Copayment/coinsurance requirements and their applicable drug classes
- Drug lists and changes
- Prior authorization criteria
- Procedures for generic substitution
- Therapeutic interchange
- Step therapy or other management methods subject to prescribing decisions
- Any other requirements, restrictions, or limitations that apply to using certain drugs

The **commercial** and **marketplace** drug lists are posted to the web site quarterly (the first of the month for January, April, July and October).

To locate “Marketplace Select Formulary” and pharmacy information, scroll down to “Select Drug Lists.” This drug list is also reviewed and updated regularly as needed.

FEP Pharmacy updates and other pharmacy related information may be accessed at www.fepblue.org > Pharmacy Benefits.

URL: <https://providernews.anthem.com/kentucky/article/pharmacy-information-available-at-anthemcom-22>

MCG Care Guidelines 24th Edition

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

Effective July 1, 2020, we will upgrade to the 24th edition of MCG care guidelines for the following modules: Inpatient & Surgical Care (ISC), General Recovery Care (GRC), Chronic Care (CC), Recovery Facility Care (RFC), and Behavioral Health Care (BHC). The below tables highlight new guidelines and changes that may be considered more restrictive.

Goal Length of Stay (GLOS) Changes for Inpatient & Surgical Care (ISC) and Behavioral Health Care (BHC)

Guideline	MCG Code	24th Edition GLOS	23rd Edition GLOS
Aortic Valve Replacement, Transcatheter	S-1320	2 days postoperative	3 days postoperative
Appendectomy, with Abscess or Peritonitis, by Laparoscopy	S-185	Ambulatory or 2 days postoperative	2 days postoperative
Appendectomy, without Abscess or Peritonitis, by Laparoscopy	S-175	Ambulatory postoperative	Ambulatory or 1 day postoperative
Repair of Pelvic Organ Prolapse	S-1020	Ambulatory postoperative	Ambulatory or 1 day postoperative
Urethral Suspension Procedures	S-850	Ambulatory postoperative	Ambulatory or 1 day postoperative
Appendectomy, with Abscess or Peritonitis, by Laparoscopy, Pediatric	P-30	Ambulatory or 2 days postoperative	2 or 3 days postoperative
Appendectomy, without Abscess or Peritonitis, by Laparoscopy, Pediatric	P-20	Ambulatory postoperative	Ambulatory or 1 day postoperative
Tibial Osteotomy, Child or Adolescent	S-1131	Ambulatory or 1 day postoperative	1 day postoperative
Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders, Adult: Inpatient Care	B-014-IP	5 days	6 days
Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders, Child or Adolescent: Inpatient Care	B-027-IP	5 days	6 days
Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation	B-801-T	Utilize B-801-T for Clinical Indications for procedure	Refer to BEH.00002 for Clinical Indications for procedure

New Optimal Recovery Guidelines (ORGs) for Inpatient & Surgical Care (ISC) and New Behavioral Health Care (BHC) New Guidelines

Body System	Guideline Title	MCG Code
Pediatrics	Appendectomy, with Abscess or Peritonitis, Pediatric	P-35
Pediatrics	Appendectomy, without Abscess or Peritonitis, Pediatric	P-25
Home Care Behavioral Health	Attention-Deficit and Disruptive Behavior Disorders	B-003-HC
Home Care Behavioral Health	Autism Spectrum Disorders	B-012-HC

Anthem Customizations to MCG care guideline 24th Edition

Effective July 1, 2020, the following MCG care guideline 24th edition customizations will be implemented.

- Carotid Artery Stenting (W0165) – Clinical Indications were customized to reference CG-SURG-76 Carotid, Vertebral and Intracranial Artery Stent Placement with or without Angioplasty
- Deep Brain Stimulation (W0164) – Clinical Indications were customized to refer to SURG.00026 Deep Brain, Cortical, and Cerebellar Stimulation.
- Vagus Nerve Stimulation, Implantable (W0166) – Clinical Indications were customized to refer to SURG.00007 Vagus Nerve Stimulation.

To view a detailed summary of customizations, visit the [Medical Policies & Clinical UM Guidelines page](#), scroll down to Other Criteria section and select Customizations to MCG Care Guidelines 24th Edition.

For questions, please contact the Provider Services number on the back of the member's ID card.

URL: <https://providernews.anthem.com/kentucky/article/mcg-care-guidelines-24th-edition-3>

UPDATE: Notice of changes to the AIM Musculoskeletal Program prior authorization requirements

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

The March 2018 edition of the *Network Update* previously announced that AIM would review level of care and expected length of stay. As you know, AIM Specialty Health® (AIM) administers the musculoskeletal program. The musculoskeletal program includes the medical necessity review of certain surgeries of the spine and joints, as well as interventional pain treatment for Commercial fully insured Anthem members and some ASO groups.

Effective May 1, 2020, AIM will add the additional review of level of care and expected length of stay for medical necessity using [AIM clinical guidelines](#) for requests received on or after May 1, 2020.

Providers should continue to submit prior authorization review requests to AIM using one of the following ways:

- Access AIM *ProviderPortal*_{SM} directly at providerportal.com. Online access is available 24/7 to process orders in real-time, and is the fastest and most convenient way to request authorization.
- Access AIM via the Availity Portal at availity.com
- Call the AIM toll-free number at (800) 554-0580, Monday through Friday 8:30 am – 7 pm ET.

In addition, AIM has developed an [educational website](#) to help your practice get started with the musculoskeletal and pain management program.

For questions, please contact the provider number on the back of the member ID card.

URL: <https://providernews.anthem.com/kentucky/article/update-notice-of-changes-to-the-aim-musculoskeletal-program-prior-authorization-requirements-1>

HEDIS 2020 Federal Employee Program® medical record request requirements

Published: Apr 1, 2020 - **State & Federal** / Federal Employee Plan (FEP)

Centauri Health Solutions is the contracted vendor to gather member medical records on behalf of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Federal Employee Program. We value the relationship with our providers, and ask that you respond to the detailed requests in support of risk adjustment, HEDIS and other government required activities within the requested timeframe. Centauri Health will work with you to obtain records via fax, mail, remote electronic medical record (EMR) access, or onsite scanning/EMR download (as necessary).

We ask that you please promptly comply within **five (5) business days** of the record requests.

If you have any questions, please contact Ify Ifezulike with Blue Cross Blue Shield Federal Employee Program at (202) 626-4839 or Mary Kay Sander with Centauri at (636) 333-9145.

URL: <https://providernews.anthem.com/kentucky/article/hedis-2020-federal-employee-program-medical-record-request-requirements-2>

COVID-19 information from Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield

Published: Apr 1, 2020 - **State & Federal** / Medicare

Click here for more information about the [COVID-19 Virus Talking Points](#) for Medicare Advantage.

URL: <https://providernews.anthem.com/kentucky/article/covid-19-information-from-anthem-blue-cross-and-blue-shield>

Medicare News - April 2020

Published: Apr 1, 2020 - **State & Federal** / Medicare

Please continue to check [Important Medicare Advantage Updates](#) at [anthem.com/medicareprovider](https://www.anthem.com/medicareprovider) for the latest Medicare Advantage information, including:

- [Coding tip for psychological and neuropsychological testing](#)
- [Medical Policies and Clinical Utilization Management Guidelines update](#)
- [New Medicare Advantage opioid treatment Program benefit](#)
- [Prior authorization requirements: new 2020 codes for coverage and precertification](#)

URL: <https://providernews.anthem.com/kentucky/article/medicare-news-april-2020>

Medical drug benefit Clinical Criteria updates - November 2019

Published: Apr 1, 2020 - **State & Federal** / Medicare

On November 15, 2019, the Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee approved *Clinical Criteria* applicable to the **medical drug benefit** for Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield. These policies were developed, revised or reviewed to support clinical coding edits.

The *Clinical Criteria* is publicly available on the provider websites, and the effective dates will be reflected in the [Clinical Criteria Web Posting November 2019](#). Visit [Clinical Criteria](#) to search for specific policies.

For questions or additional information, use this [email](#).

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URL: <https://providernews.anthem.com/kentucky/article/medical-drug-benefit-clinical-criteria-updates-november-2019-2>

Medical drug benefit Clinical Criteria updates - December 2019

Published: Apr 1, 2020 - **State & Federal** / Medicare

On December 18, 2019, and December 23, 2019, the Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee approved *Clinical Criteria* applicable to the **medical drug benefit** for Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield. These policies were developed, revised or reviewed to support clinical coding edits.

The *Clinical Criteria* is publicly available on the provider websites, and the effective dates will be reflected in the [Clinical Criteria Web Posting December 2019](#). Visit [Clinical Criteria](#) to search for specific policies.

For questions or additional information, use this [email](#).*

* IngenioRx, Inc. is an independent company providing pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

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URL: <https://providernews.anthem.com/kentucky/article/medical-drug-benefit-clinical-criteria-updates-december-2019-4>

2020 Medicare risk adjustment provider trainings

Published: Apr 1, 2020 - **State & Federal** / Medicare

The Medicare Risk Adjustment Regulatory Compliance team at Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield (Anthem) offers two provider training programs regarding Medicare risk adjustment and documentation guidelines. Information for each training is outlined below.

Medicare Risk Adjustment and Documentation Guidance (General)

- **When:** The trainings will be offered the first Wednesday of each month from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. ET (from January 8, 2020, to December 2, 2020).
- **Learning objective:** This onboarding training will provide an overview of Medicare risk adjustment, including the Risk Adjustment Factor and the Hierarchical Condition Category (HCC) model, with guidance on medical record documentation and coding.
- **Credits:** This live activity has been reviewed and is acceptable for up to 1 prescribed credit by the American Academy of Family Physicians. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

For those interested in joining us to learn how providers play a critical role in facilitating the risk adjustment process, register for one of the monthly training sessions at the link below:

- [Medicare Risk Adjustment and Documentation Guidance \(General\)](#)

Note: Dates may be modified due to holiday scheduling.

Medicare Risk Adjustment, Documentation and Coding Guidance (Condition Specific)

- **When:** The trainings will be offered on the third Wednesday of every other month from noon to 1 p.m. ET (from January 15, 2020 to November 18, 2020).
- **Learning objective:** This is a collaborative learning event with Enhanced Personal Health Care (EPHC)* to provide in-depth disease information pertaining to specific conditions including an overview of their corresponding HCC, with guidance on documentation and coding.
- **Credits:** This live series activity has been reviewed and is acceptable for credit by the American Academy of Family Physicians. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity

For those interested in joining us for this six-part training series, please see the list of topics and scheduled training dates below:

1. **Red Flag HCCs Part 1 (January 15, 2020)** — register for a recording of the session: Training will cover HCCs most commonly reported in error as identified by CMS (Chronic Kidney Disease Stage 5, Ischemic or Unspecified Stroke, Cerebral Hemorrhage, Aspiration and Specified Bacterial Pneumonias, Unstable Angina and Other Acute Ischemic Heart Disease, End-Stage Liver Disease).

- Link: [Red Flag Hierarchical Condition Categories \(HCCs\), part one](#)

1. **Red Flag HCCs Part 2 (March 18, 2020):** Training will cover HCCs most commonly reported in error as identified by CMS (Atherosclerosis of the Extremities with Ulceration or Gangrene, Myasthenia Gravis/Myoneural Disorders and Guillain-Barre Syndrome, Drug/Alcohol Psychosis, Lung and Other Severe Cancers, Diabetes with Ophthalmologic or Unspecified Manifestation)

- Link: [Medicare Risk Adjustment Documentation and Coding Guidance: Red Flag HCC's Part 2](#)

1. **Neoplasms (May 20, 2020)**

- Link: [Neoplasms](#)

1. **Acute, Chronic and Status Conditions (July 15, 2020)**

- Link: [Acute, Chronic and Status Conditions](#)

1. **Diabetes Mellitus and Other Metabolic Disorders (September 16, 2020)**

- Link: [Diabetes Mellitus and Other Metabolic Disorders](#)

1. **TBD** - This Medicare risk adjustment webinar will cover the critical topics and updates that surface during the year (November 18, 2020)

- Link: [Topic TBD](#)

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URL: <https://providernews.anthem.com/kentucky/article/2020-medicare-risk-adjustment-provider-trainings-4>

Medicaid News - April 2020

Published: Apr 1, 2020 - **State & Federal** / Medicaid

Please continue to check [Medicaid Provider Communications & Updates](#) on the [provider website](#) for the latest information, including:

- [New specialty pharmacy medical step therapy requirements](#)

URL: <https://providernews.anthem.com/kentucky/article/medicaid-news-april-2020-1>

Disease Management can help you care for patients with chronic health care needs

Published: Apr 1, 2020 - **State & Federal** / Medicaid

Disease Management programs are designed to assist PCPs and specialists in caring for members with chronic health care needs. Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Medicaid provides members with continuous education on self-management, assistance in connecting to community resources, and coordination of care by a team of highly qualified professionals whose goal is to create a system of seamless health care interventions and communications for members.

Who is eligible?

Disease Management case managers provide support to members with:

- Behavioral health conditions such as depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and substance use disorder.
- Diabetes.
- Heart conditions such as congestive heart failure, coronary artery disease and hypertension.
- HIV/AIDS.
- Pulmonary conditions such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Our case managers use member-centric motivational interviewing to identify and address health risks such as tobacco use and obesity to improve condition-specific outcomes. Interventions are rooted in evidence-based clinical practice guidelines from recognized sources. We implement continuous improvement strategies to increase evaluation, management and health outcomes.

We welcome your referrals. To refer a member to Disease Management:

- Call **1-888-830-4300** to speak directly to one of our team members.
- Fill out the Disease Management Referral Form located on the provider website and fax it to **1-888-762-3199** or submit electronically via the Availity Portal.

Your input and partnership are valued. Once your patient is enrolled, you will be notified by the assigned Disease Management case manager. You can also access your patient's Disease Management care plan, goals and progress at any time via the Availity Portal through Patient360.

We are happy to answer any questions. Our registered nurse case managers are available Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. local time, and our confidential voicemail is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

URL: <https://providernews.anthem.com/kentucky/article/disease-management-can-help-you-care-for-patients-with-chronic-health-care-needs-1>

Use of Imaging Studies for Low Back Pain (LBP)

Published: Apr 1, 2020 - **State & Federal** / Medicaid

The HEDIS® measure, Use of Imaging Studies for Low Back Pain (LBP), analyzes the percentage of patients 18 to 50 years of age during the measurement year with a primary diagnosis of low back pain who did not have an imaging study (plain X-ray, MRI, CT scan) within 28 days of the diagnosis. The measure is used to determine whether imaging studies are overused to evaluate members with low back pain. The measure is an inverted rate. A higher score indicates appropriate treatment of low back pain.

Clinical guidelines for treating patients with acute low back pain recommend against the use of imaging in the absence of red flags (in other words, indications of a serious underlying pathology such as a fracture or tumor). Unnecessary or routine imaging is problematic because it is not associated with improved outcomes and exposes patients to unnecessary harms such as radiation exposure and further unnecessary treatment.

Measure exclusions

- Cancer
- Recent trauma
- Intravenous drug abuse
- Neurological impairment
- HIV

- Spinal infection
- Major organ transplant
- Prolonged use of corticosteroids

Helpful tips

Hold off on doing imaging for low back pain within the first six weeks, unless red flags are present.

Consider alternative treatment options prior to ordering diagnostic imaging studies, such as:

- Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.
- Non-pharmacologic treatment, such as heat and massage.
- Exercise to strengthen the core and low back or physical therapy.

Other available resources:

- National Committee for Quality Assurance — [NCQA.org](https://www.ncqa.org)
- Choosing Wisely — [Choosingwisely.org](https://www.choosingwisely.org)
- American Academy of Family Physicians — [AAFP.org](https://www.aafp.org)

URL: <https://providernews.anthem.com/kentucky/article/use-of-imaging-studies-for-low-back-pain-lbp>

Kentucky Health Information Exchange grant opportunity

Published: Apr 1, 2020 - **State & Federal** / Medicaid

In collaboration with the Department for Medicaid Services and the Kentucky Health Information Exchange (KHIE), Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Medicaid (Anthem) is offering participating Anthem providers the opportunity to apply for a grant to help offset the costs associated with connecting to KHIE. If approved, providers may be awarded up to \$2,000, per tax identification number and/or business entity, until all grant funds up to \$100,000 are depleted. Applications will be accepted through June 30, 2020.

To apply, visit the [Anthem provider website](#). The application and instructions are under News and Announcements.

If you have questions, please contact your Network Relations Consultant.

URL: <https://providernews.anthem.com/kentucky/article/kentucky-health-information-exchange-grant-opportunity>
