



P.O. Box 30449
Salt Lake City, UT 84130-0449

May 19, 2016

Marci Cali, RHIT
Tennessee Oncology Practice Society (TOPS)

Re: Injectable outpatient chemotherapy services for UnitedHealthcare Community Plan in Tennessee will require prior authorization beginning June 1, 2016

Dear Marci:

Our member benefit plans require medically appropriate care, so we regularly evaluate our medical policies, clinical programs and health benefits based on the latest scientific evidence. As a result of this review, we are expanding injectable outpatient chemotherapy prior authorization requirements, effective June 1, 2016, for UnitedHealthcare Community Plan members in Tennessee for TennCare membership. We value our relationship with the Tennessee Oncology Practice Society (TOPS) and encourage you to share the enclosed information with your membership.

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan uses National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) guidelines to review prior authorization requests and claims for chemotherapy drugs administered in an outpatient setting. NCCN provides independent, evidence-based recommendations for cancer treatment at nccn.org. The injectable outpatient chemotherapy prior authorization requirement has been in place for UnitedHealthcare Commercial members since June 1, 2015, and has helped to improve oncology care quality and service for members undergoing treatment – with very few denials.

By requiring prior authorization for certain medical services, we are one step closer in supporting the Triple Aim to improve care experiences, outcomes and the total cost of care for UnitedHealthcare Community Plan members. Care providers can submit prior authorization requests for outpatient injectable chemotherapy at UnitedHealthcareOnline.com > Notifications/Prior Authorizations > Oncology Authorization Submission & Status > Submit or Look Up Chemotherapy Prior Authorization Request.

If you have questions please call 866-889-8054 for help with specific prior authorization requests, or if you have general program questions, email us at UnitedOncology@uhc.com. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lee N. Newcomer'.

Lee N. Newcomer, MD
Senior Vice President

Enclosure



Prior Authorization for Injectable Outpatient Chemotherapy Services

Effective June 1, 2016, injectable outpatient chemotherapy services for UnitedHealthcare Community Plan members in Tennessee will require prior authorization.

Requiring prior authorization for certain medical services is one step we are taking in support of the Triple Aim to improve care experiences, outcomes and the total cost of care for UnitedHealthcare Community Plan members.

UnitedHealthcare injectable chemotherapy prior authorization requirements include **all** injectable chemotherapy drugs used to treat cancer including:

- Chemotherapy injectable drugs (J9000 - J9999), Leucovorin (J0640) and Levoleukovorin (J0641)
- Chemotherapy injectable drugs that have a Q code
- Chemotherapy injectable drugs that have not yet received an assigned code and will be billed under a miscellaneous Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code

Prior authorization requests for the following treatments are **NOT** part of the injectable chemotherapy prior authorization program:

- Radiotherapeutic agents (i.e., Zevalin and Xofigo)
- Oral chemotherapy drugs, which are covered under a member's pharmacy benefit plan
- Supportive care injectable drugs
- Use of the chemotherapy drugs for non-cancer diagnosis

To support the prior authorization process, we have contracted with eviCore, formerly known as CareCore National. UnitedHealthcare also contracts with eviCore for cardiology and radiology prior authorization services. Care providers can begin submitting online prior authorization requests for injectable outpatient chemotherapy services through eviCore on June 1, 2016, for UnitedHealthcare Community Plan in Tennessee.

- All eligible National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN)-recommended chemotherapy regimens are displayed during the prior authorization process.
- Care providers can submit clinical information online during the authorization process for members who require exceptions due to medical contraindications.
- Reviews are performed by medical oncologists in almost all instances.

When a care provider selects an NCCN-recommended chemotherapy regimen for a UnitedHealthcare member, they will receive approval at the time of request. Care providers will receive a response to requests for pediatric chemotherapy regimens, rare cancers or chemotherapy regimens that are not NCCN-recommended in three to five business days if supporting documentation is provided at the time of the prior authorization request.

If a UnitedHealthcare Community Plan member in Tennessee has received injectable chemotherapy drugs in an outpatient setting between March 1, 2016, and May 31, 2016, the care provider does NOT need to request prior authorization until a new chemotherapy drug is administered to the member. We will authorize the chemotherapy regimen the member was receiving prior to June 1, 2016, and the authorization will be effective until May 31, 2017.

If a care provider does not complete the prior authorization process before administering chemotherapy, claims will be denied based on lack of prior authorization; members cannot be billed for services that are denied due to lack of prior authorization.

Receipt of prior authorization does not guarantee or authorize payment. Payment for covered services is contingent on many factors, including the member's eligibility on the date of service, benefit plan, any claim processing requirements and the terms of the provider's participation agreement with UnitedHealthcare.

Training and additional information can be found at UnitedHealthcareOnline.com > Clinician Resources > Oncology > Chemotherapy (Injectable) Prior Authorization Program, including the following:

- Training videos
- Frequently asked questions
- Cancer diagnosis quick reference guide
- Free access to the NCCN compendium

If you have questions, please email UnitedOncology@uhc.com. Thank you.