

To: AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania and AmeriHealth Caritas Northeast Facilities

From: AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania and AmeriHealth Caritas Northeast

Date: June 15, 2020

Subject: Outpatient Surgical Procedures Policy

Summary: Policy Change: **Effective August 15, 2020**, the surgical procedures below should be performed in an outpatient surgical center unless the criteria indicated below are evident.

AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania and AmeriHealth Caritas Northeast reimburses only those services that are furnished in the most appropriate and cost-effective setting for the member's medical needs and condition. This determination is based on the Member's medical condition at the time the services are delivered, and any required monitoring or additional services that may coincide with the delivery of this service. The outpatient surgical center, is the most appropriate and cost-effective setting for the average-risk patient undergoing the following procedures:

- Anterior cervical fusion, one level
- Hip joint replacement
- Knee joint replacement
- Lumbar fusion, one level

These procedures require prior authorization, regardless of the setting in which they are performed.

A hospital outpatient surgical center is located in a hospital outpatient department where surgical and diagnostic procedures are performed on an ambulatory basis. The procedures and diagnostic services are unlikely to require a patient stay that exceeds 24 hours, and the complexity of the procedure is not expected to require immediate access to a hospital services-specific setting or postoperative inpatient setting.

Circumstances that will support performance of any of the above procedures in an inpatient setting:

- Age > 70
- Decreased functional status requiring inpatient rehab
- Medical comorbidities requiring inpatient management

Circumstances that will support performance of spinal fusion in an inpatient setting:

- Multilevel fusions



Historical findings that will support performance of joint replacement in an inpatient setting:

- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Heart failure
- Coronary artery disease
- Cirrhosis
- End-stage renal disease
- Thromboembolic events
- Diabetes and HbA1c > 7%
- Opioid use disorder
- BMI > 40

The circumstances and historical findings listed above are not necessarily all-inclusive, and there may be other patient-specific circumstances or historical findings that will support performance of the procedure in an inpatient setting.

Questions:

If you have questions about this communication, please contact your Provider Account Executive or the Provider Services department at 1-800-521-6007 for AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania and at 1-888-208-7370 for AmeriHealth Caritas Northeast.