Dear Provider:

Effective September 1, 2016, clinical appropriateness review of radiation oncology, sleep medicine and cardiology services for Empire BlueCross BlueShield HealthPlus (Empire) members will be managed by AIM Specialty Health® (AIM). AIM works with leading insurers to improve health care quality and manage costs for today’s most complex and prevalent tests and treatments, helping to promote care that is appropriate, safe and affordable.

Providers should contact AIM to request review of these services:
- Cardiology
- Radiation oncology
- Sleep medicine

**Cardiology**

Providers should contact AIM to obtain an order number for the following cardiology services:
- Computed tomography (CT/CTA), including cardiac
- Magnetic resonance (MRI/MRA), including cardiac
- Positron emission tomography (PET) scans, including cardiac
- Nuclear cardiology
- Stress echocardiography (SE)
- Resting transthoracic echocardiography (TTE)
- Transesophageal echocardiography (TEE)
- Arterial ultrasound
- Cardiac catheterization
- Percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI)

We understand that the need for arterial duplex imaging or PCI procedures may not be identified until patients have undergone a physiologic study or cardiac catheterization. For these cases, please contact AIM to request clinical appropriateness review no later than 10 business days after you perform these procedures, and before you submit a claim. For all other cases, please contact AIM to obtain authorization before you perform the procedure.

**Learn more about submitting a cardiology request**

Radiation oncology

Providers should contact AIM to obtain pre-service review for the following non-emergency, outpatient radiation oncology modalities:

- Brachytherapy
- Intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT)
- Proton beam radiation therapy (PBRT)
- Stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS)/surgical body radiotherapy (SBRT)
- 3D conformal therapy* (EBRT) for bone metastases and breast cancer
- Hypo fractionation for bone metastases and breast cancer when requesting EBRT and IMRT
- Special procedures and consultations associated with a treatment plan (CPT codes 77370 and 77470)
- Image guided radiation therapy (IGRT)

Radiation oncology performed as part of an inpatient admission is not part of the AIM program.

Radiation oncology providers are strongly encouraged to verify that an order number has been obtained before initiating scheduling and performing services. Review requests may also be initiated within [INSERT TIMEFRAME] of the first treatment start date, but before a claim is filed.

*Voluntary Notification for 3-D Conformal Radiation Therapy (EBRT). For EBRT, pre-service review is required only for procedures involving bone metastases and breast cancer. Additionally, Empire is requesting that ordering providers contact AIM to review all other 3D conformal therapy requests on a voluntary basis. Clinical review will be performed to confirm appropriateness and to ensure the ordering physician is aware of alternative treatments where applicable. Once clinical review is completed, an order number will be issued. Claims will not be denied as a result of this voluntary process.

Learn more about submitting a radiation oncology request


Sleep medicine

Providers should contact AIM to obtain an order number before scheduling or performing any elective outpatient home-based (unattended) diagnostic study or a facility-based diagnostic or titration study (free-standing or hospital), as well as for sleep treatment equipment and related supplies. The following services are included in the program:

- Home sleep test (HST)
- In-lab sleep study (PSG, MSLT, MWT)
- Titration study
- Initial treatment order (APAP, CPAP, BPAP)
- Ongoing treatment order (APAP, CPAP, BPAP)
- Oral appliances (only for AIM guidelines adoption, non-Anthem)

Services performed in conjunction with emergency room services, inpatient hospitalization or urgent care facilities are excluded. Both ordering physicians (those referring the member for sleep testing) and servicing providers (those freestanding or hospital labs that perform sleep testing) may submit requests.
This program pertains to both new and existing sleep therapy patients.

**New clinical guidelines**

Effective September 1, 2016, Empire’s sleep management program will follow AIM Sleep Disorder Management Diagnosis and Treatment Guidelines. AIM’s clinical guidelines for sleep medicine are developed and revised through a rigorous review process that utilizes a comprehensive assessment of existing guidelines, evidence-based standards and literature, and feedback from the AIM External Physician Specialty Advisory Panel, which includes board-certified physicians from both community and academic practices. The clinical guidelines for sleep can be accessed on the AIM website at [www.aimspecialtyhealth.com](http://www.aimspecialtyhealth.com).

**Learn more about submitting a sleep medicine request**


**ProviderPortal℠, the fastest, easiest way to contact AIM**

An online application, ProviderPortal offers a convenient way to enter your order requests or check on the status of your previous orders.

Go to [www.providerportal.com](http://www.providerportal.com) to begin (registration required).

For questions regarding your online order, please contact the AIM ProviderPortal Support Team at **1-800-252-2021**.

Thank you for your participation. We appreciate your continued service to our members, your patients.

Sincerely,

Empire BlueCross BlueShield HealthPlus