

## Updates to *AIM Clinical Appropriateness Guidelines for Radiation Oncology*

*This communication applies to the Medicaid and Medicare Advantage programs for Empire BlueCross BlueShield (Empire).*

The following updates will apply to the AIM Specialty Health\* *Clinical Appropriateness Guidelines for Radiation Oncology* for claims with dates of service on and after March 14, 2021. Please note that there are no restrictive changes in this update.

### Radiation oncology

Special treatment procedure:

- Removed IV requirement for chemotherapy

Central nervous system cancer — Intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) for glioblastomas, other gliomas, brain metastases:

- Eliminated the plan comparison requirement based on feedback from reviewers that all cases were able to meet criteria — same change for high-grade and low-grade gliomas.
- Added new indication for hippocampal sparing whole brain radiotherapy.

Lung cancer — IMRT and stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT) for non-small cell, SBRT for small cell; fractionation for non-small cell:

- Eliminated the plan comparison requirement for IMRT to treat stage 3, non-small cell lung cancer.
- Removed *due to a medical contraindication* language.
- Added new indication as an alternative to surgical resection when certain conditions apply.
- Adjusted fractions of thoracic radiotherapy for non-small cell lung cancer.

### Proton beam therapy

- Added new indication for hepatocellular carcinoma and intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma.

As a reminder, ordering and servicing providers may submit prior authorization requests to AIM Specialty Health®\* (AIM) in one of several ways:

- Access the AIM *ProviderPortals*<sup>SM</sup> directly at <https://aimspecialtyhealth.com/providerportal>.
  - Online access is available 24/7 to process orders and is the fastest and most convenient way to request authorization.
- Access AIM via the Availity\* Portal at <https://availability.com>
- Call the AIM Contact Center toll-free number at **1-800-714-0040** from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. CT

If you have questions related to guidelines, please contact AIM by email at [aim.guidelines@aimspecialtyhealth.com](mailto:aim.guidelines@aimspecialtyhealth.com). Additionally, you may access and download a copy of the current and upcoming guidelines [here](#).

\* AIM Specialty Health is an independent company providing some utilization review services on behalf of Empire BlueCross BlueShield. Availity, LLC is an independent company providing administrative support services on behalf of Empire BlueCross BlueShield.

**Provider Services:**

- Medicaid: **1-800-450-8753**
- Medicare Advantage: Call the number on the back of members' ID cards