

PROVIDER ALERT

November 16, 2016



Medica Modifies UM Policies for Spine Surgeries, Tumor Treatment

Alert

Medica has recently reviewed the following procedures and modified utilization management (UM) criteria for them: **lumbar spine surgeries**, **cervical spine surgeries** and **electric tumor treatment fields**. These changes are effective immediately. For the spine surgeries:

- Pre-surgical hemoglobin documentation for individuals undergoing multi-level lumbar spinal fusion is no longer required.
- It is no longer required for patients to be tobacco/nicotine-free prior to either lumbar or cervical artificial disc replacement (arthroplasty).
- Two new FDA-approved artificial discs will be considered medically necessary when all other criteria for arthroplasty are met: activL[®] lumbar artificial disc at one level; and Prestige LP cervical artificial disc at one or two levels.

A new prior authorization request form is also available now for non-emergent spine surgeries.

Providers are encouraged to start using this form as soon as possible. (Using the link below, click on the “Prior Authorization” tab.)

In addition, following a review of the scientific evidence, Medica has determined that the use of electric tumor treatment fields (e.g., Optune System) for newly diagnosed glioblastoma, in conjunction with chemotherapy, *will now be covered*.

These changes are effective beginning with November 16, 2016, dates of service. They apply to all Medica products including government products unless a particular health plan (whether commercial, Medicare or Medicaid) requires different coverage.

Action

No action is required. The revised UM policies related to these changes are now online. [See Medica's UM policies](#) or call the Medica Provider Literature Request Line for a printed copy, toll-free at 1-800-458-5512, option 1, then option 5, ext. 2-2355.

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