

EFFECTIVE DATE: 02|01|2023

POLICY LAST UPDATED: 11|16|2022

OVERVIEW

This policy documents the spinal procedures in which prior authorization is required by the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island (BCBSRI) through the Spine Procedures vendor for Medicare Advantage Plans.

NOTE: This policy is applicable to Medicare Advantage Plans only. For Commercial Products, please see the applicable policy in the Related Policies section.

MEDICAL CRITERIA

Medicare Advantage Plans

Clinical guidelines for the spinal procedures listed below are found on the Spine Procedures vendor's website, which can be accessed at eviCore.com or calling 888-233-8158 or faxing to 888-693-3210.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Medicare Advantage Plans

Prior authorization is required for Medicare Advantage Plans.

POLICY STATEMENT

Medicare Advantage Plans

The physician who orders the spinal procedure(s) must initiate and complete the authorization with the BCBSRI Spine Procedures vendor. The ordering physician must maintain all documentation to support the clinical appropriateness of the spinal procedure(s) that is ordered and will complete the authorization accurately.

OVERAGE

Benefits may vary between groups and contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Benefit Booklet, Evidence of Coverage or Subscriber Agreement for applicable not medically necessary/coverage or surgery benefit.

CODING

The following codes are covered if approved by the BCBSRI's Spine Procedures vendor:

[2023 Codes for Spinal Procedures](#)

RELATED POLICIES

Artificial Intervertebral Disc Insertion Lumbar Spine
Axial Lumbosacral Interbody Fusion
Diagnosis and Treatment of Sacroiliac Joint Pain
Image-Guided Minimally Invasive Spinal Decompression for Spinal Stenosis
Interspinous and Interlaminar Stabilization/Distractor Devices (Spacers)
New Technology and Miscellaneous Services
Non-Reimbursable Health Service Codes
Prior Authorization via Web Based Tool for Procedures

PUBLISHED

Provider Update, December 2022

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