

# BlueLink Provider Newsletter

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

### Submitting A Pre-Service Review Request? Know This.

If you are a local participating provider, please continue to login to [CareFirst Direct](#) and use the preauthorization function to initiate your request.

To make the authorization process more efficient and decrease turnaround response time, effective July 5, 2016, CareFirst will be transitioning to a voicemail system for pre-service review requests.

You can also verify authorization and confirm patient eligibility and benefits through the CareFirst on Call ([Professional](#) and [Institutional](#)) voice response system.

For responses on existing cases, the following fax numbers can be utilized, as appropriate:

Inpatient	410-720-3058
Outpatient	410-720-3060
Gastric Bypass	410-720-3062
Orthognathic	410-720-3063
Transplant	410-720-3061
FEP	410-720-5322

If information is needed for an existing case, please leave a voicemail message and you will receive a response within one business day. For questions, contact your [provider relations representative](#).

## HEALTH CARE POLICY

### Effective Dates, CPT® Codes and June’s Policy Updates – Don’t Miss It

Pulse wave analysis, positron emission tomography, dry needling and more— all within this issue’s medical policy updates.

As a reminder, these medical policies are not intended to replace or substitute for the independent medical judgment of a practitioner or other health professional for the treatment of an individual. As medical technology continues to change, CareFirst reserves the right to review and update its medical policy as necessary.

Refer to the latest Medical Policy Update chart below:

MEDICAL POLICY AND/OR PROCEDURE	ACTIONS, COMMENTS AND REPORTING GUIDELINES	POLICY STATUS AND EFFECTIVE DATE
2.01.016 Blood-Derived Growth Factors for Wound Healing	Under Policy Guidelines added 2016 rationale statement. Report service with appropriate HCPCS code.	Periodic review and update Effective 4/18/16
2.01.059 Quantitative Sensory Testing for Peripheral Neuropathies	Under Policy Guidelines added 2016 rationale statement. Report service with CPT® Category III codes 0106T-0110T and HCPCS code G0255.	Periodic review and update Effective 4/18/16
2.01.066 Digital Pulse Wave Analysis Assessment of Arterial Elasticity	Under Policy Guidelines added 2016 rationale statement. Report service with CPT® Category I code 93799.	Periodic review and update Effective 4/18/16

MEDICAL POLICY AND/OR PROCEDURE	ACTIONS, COMMENTS AND REPORTING GUIDELINES	POLICY STATUS AND EFFECTIVE DATE
2.02.001 External / Extracorporeal Counterpulsation (ECP or EECP)	Under Policy Guidelines added 2016 rationale statement. Report service with CPT® Category I code 92971.	No further review scheduled Effective 4/18/16
2.03.003 Transcatheter Arterial Chemoembolization for Malignant Tumors of the Liver	Under Policy Guidelines added 2016 rationale statement. Report service with CPT® Category I codes 37243 and 75894.	Periodic review and update Effective 4/18/16
6.01.032 Positron Emission Tomography (PET)	Under Policy Guidelines added 2016 rationale statement. Report service with appropriate CPT® Category I code and HCPCS codes.	Periodic review and update Effective 4/18/16
7.01.005 Cochlear Implantation	Under Policy Guidelines added 2016 rationale statement. Report service with appropriate CPT® Category I code and HCPCS codes.	Periodic review and update Effective 4/18/16
7.01.088 Vertebral Disc Replacement / Lumbar Disc Prosthesis	Under Policy Guidelines added 2016 rationale statement. Report service with CPT® Category I code 22857, 22862 or 22865.	Periodic review and update Effective 4/18/16
8.01.018 Dry Needling	Under Policy Guidelines added 2016 rationale statement. Report service with CPT® Category I code 97799.	Periodic review and update Effective 4/18/16
1.01.015A Augmentative Communication Devices	Report service with appropriate CPT® Category I code and HCPCS codes.	Return to active review Effective 5/23/16
1.01.018 Neuromuscular Electrical Stimulation (NMES) Devices	Policy Guideline statement revised. Refer to policy for details.	Revision Effective 5/23/16
1.02.025 Probiotics	Under Benefit Application added "such as food supplements" to the statement "Benefits are not provided for over-the-counter items or supplies, as determined by CareFirst, that are available for purchase without a prescription unless otherwise a	Revision Effective 5/23/16

MEDICAL POLICY AND/OR PROCEDURE	ACTIONS, COMMENTS AND REPORTING GUIDELINES	POLICY STATUS AND EFFECTIVE DATE
	covered service. A prescription from the provider does not guarantee coverage by CareFirst.” Refer to policy for details.	
1.04.001 Prosthetics	Policy updated with criteria for Microprocessor-controlled knee for amputees. Report service with appropriate HCPCS code.	Return to active review Effective 5/23/16
2.02.002 Microvolt T-Wave Alternans	Under Policy Guidelines added 2016 rationale statement. Report service with CPT® Category I code 93025.	Periodic review and update. Effective 5/23/16
3.01.009 Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) with or without Hyperactivity	Under Policy Guidelines added 2016 rationale statement. Report with appropriate CPT® Category I codes.	Periodic review and update. Effective 5/23/16
3.01.010 Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation for Treatment of Depression and Other Psychiatric / Neurologic Disorders	Under Policy Guidelines added 2016 rationale statement. Provider Guidelines updated. Report service with CPT® Category I codes 90867, 90868, 90869. Refer to policy for details.	Periodic review and update. Effective 5/23/16
4.01.006A Global Maternity Care	Return to active review. Refer to policy for details.	Periodic review and update. Effective 5/23/16
6.01.036 Magnetoencephalography and Magnetic Source Imaging	Under Policy Guidelines added 2016 rationale statement. Report service with CPT® Category I codes 95965, 98966, 95967 or HCPCS code S8035.	Periodic review and update. Effective 5/23/16
7.01.100 Cervical Vertebral Disc Replacement	Under Policy Guidelines added 2016 rationale statement. Report service with CPT® Category I codes 22856, 22861 or 22864.	Periodic review and update. Effective 5/23/16
8.01.014 Lymphedema Therapy (Complex Decongestive Therapy)	Report service with appropriate CPT® Category I codes or HCPCS codes.	Return to active review Effective date 5/23/16

## Four New Medical Technology Updates

Our Technology Assessment Unit evaluates new and existing technologies to apply to our local indemnity and managed care benefit plans. The unit relies on current scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed medical literature, local expert consultants and physicians to determine whether those technologies meet CareFirst Blue Cross BlueShield (CareFirst) and CareFirst BlueChoice, Inc. (CareFirst BlueChoice) criteria for coverage. Policies for non-local accounts like NASCO and FEP may differ from our local determinations.

Please verify member eligibility and benefits prior to rendering services via CareFirst on Call (Professional or Institutional) or CareFirst Direct.

The Technology Assessment Unit recently made the following determinations:

Technology	Description	CareFirst and CareFirst Blue Choice Determination
Esteem® and Vibrant Soundbridge middle-ear implanted and semi-implanted hearing devices	Hearing assist devices which transmit signals through the middle ear to the inner ear to be interpreted as sound	Considered experimental/investigational.  CPT® reporting code 69799
ClariVein™ mechanochemical ablation (MOCA) of varicose veins	Combines mechanical abrasion of vein interior with sclerosant injection	Considered experimental/investigational.  CPT® reporting code 37799
UroLift® prostatic urethral lift procedure for benign prostatic hypertrophy	Minimally invasive, non-resective, non-ablative procedure that opens the urethra to urine flow	Considered medically necessary.  CPT® reporting code 55899
Watchman® transcatheter closure of left atrial appendage	Allows closure of left atrial appendage by transcatheter approach to reduce risk of stroke in patients with atrial fibrillation	Considered medically necessary.  CPT® reporting code 0281T

## PROVIDER REMINDERS

### Sending Mail to the Provider Information and Credentialing Dept.? Here's Their New Address

All communication directed to the Provider Information and Credentialing Department must be sent to the following address for electronic processing:

Mail Administrator  
P.O. Box 14763  
Lexington, KY 40512

This change affects only communication that previously would have been sent to:

Provider Information and Credentialing, Mailstop CG-41  
10455 Mill Run Circle  
P.O. Box 825  
Owings Mills, MD 21117

There may be a delay in the processing of mail received at the previous address. Mail sent to any other CareFirst address is not affected by this change.

Please contact Provider Information and Credentialing at (410) 872-3500 or (877) 269-9593 with any questions.

## **Customize Your News – Get What Matters to YOU**

Did you know you can customize your email news by:

- Network – CareFirst BlueChoice, Inc., PCMH and more
- Provider Type – Institutional, Professional or Dental
- Provider Role – Office Staff, Physician/Dentist, Nurse Practitioner and more
- Field of Practice – Family Practice, Internal Medicine, Primary Care/Preventive Medicine and more

Adjust your email preferences to receive news that is relevant to you and your practice.

### **Not Registered? Not A Problem.**

Visit [www.carefirst.com/stayconnected](http://www.carefirst.com/stayconnected) or click on the image at right to learn how to register for CareFirst provider emails.

## **TRAINING SIGN-UP**

### **Convenient, Accessible and Informational: Seminars and Webinars**

Whether you are a Professional, Institutional or Ancillary provider, attending an in-person seminar or online webinar throughout the year can help you polish your current knowledge of CareFirst basics or could help explain and give more details on something new.

Visit [www.carefirst.com/cpet](http://www.carefirst.com/cpet) to sign up today, call (877) 269-2219 or register using the links below.

	Provider Type	Date	Time	Location	Topic	Register
	Institutional	June 21, 2016	10:00 am	Online	Hospital Quarterly Update	<a href="#">Register here</a>
	Institutional	June 23, 2016	2:00 pm	Online	Hospital Quarterly Update	<a href="#">Register here</a>

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

- **April 22, 2016** – [Clinical Resources, Updated Policies and Helpful Reminders Are All in the Latest Issue of BlueLink](#)
- **May 6, 2016** – [2016 Plan Updates May Affect Member Benefits](#)