

EFFECTIVE DATE: 01|01|2021

POLICY LAST UPDATED: 10|14|2020

OVERVIEW

Home health care covers a wide range of services. This policy addresses the non-skilled home health services that are covered for BlueCHiP for Medicare members. This benefit is not applicable or appropriate when skilled services are in place.

This policy is not applicable to Commercial Products

MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not applicable

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION and NOTIFICATION

Prior Authorization is not required for BlueChip for Medicare

POLICY STATEMENT

BlueCHiP for Medicare

Effective January 1, 2021, non-skilled home health care services are covered up to the members benefit limit. Services must be obtained from a Blue Cross and Blue Shield provider contracted for non-skilled home health services.

BACKGROUND

Effective January 1, 2019 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued the following memo to Medicare Advantage plans

*Beginning in CY 2019, CMS is expanding the definition of “primarily health related” to consider an item or service as primarily health related if it is used to diagnose, compensate for physical impairments, acts to ameliorate the functional/psychological impact of injuries or health conditions, or reduces avoidable emergency and healthcare utilization. A supplemental benefit is **not** primarily health related under the previous or new definition if it is an item or service that is solely or primarily used for cosmetic, comfort, general use, or social determinant purposes. In order for CMS to approve a supplemental benefit, the benefit must focus directly on an enrollee’s health care needs and be recommended by a licensed medical professional as part of a care plan, if not directly provided by one. We expect organizations will establish reasonable safeguards to ensure enrollees are appropriately directed to care. CMS anticipates organizations will use this expanded definition to address health care needs and make adjustments to their annual supplemental benefit offerings based on the expected needs of their plan population. For example, organizations may decide to offer some items and services that may be appropriate for enrollees who have been diagnosed with needing assistance with Activities of Daily Living (ADL) and Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL).*

COVERAGE

Benefits may vary between groups and contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Evidence of Coverage for applicable Non-Skilled Home Health Care coverage.

CODING

BlueCHiP for Medicare

The following code is covered up to the members benefit limit.

T1021 Home health aide or certified nurse assistant, per visit

Note: The code is applicable for services obtained from a Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Rhode Island provider contracted for non-skilled home health services.

RELATED POLICIES

Home Health Services - Skilled

PUBLISHED

Provider Update, December 2020

Provider Update, May 2020

Provider Update, June 2019

Provider Update, February 2019

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