

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 04|01|2023

**POLICY LAST UPDATED:** 02|01|2023

## **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](http://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, February 2023

Provider Update, December 2022

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