

## NOTICE OF MATERIAL CHANGE TO CONTRACT



January 1, 2023

### Re: Federal Employee Program Observation Conversion for Musculoskeletal Cases

Dear Provider:

Beginning with dates of service on or after April 1, 2023, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield and our subsidiary company, HMO Colorado (Anthem), will refer the following procedures for observation stay instead of full inpatient admission. **These services will require prior authorization to determine medical necessity prior to rendering the service for Anthem federal employee members.**

For services that are scheduled to begin on or after April 1, 2023, all providers must be aware that for the following procedures FEP will be offering observation stay versus inpatient stay when medically appropriate:

- Knee arthroplasty (total/partial/revision knee)
- Shoulder arthroplasty (hemi arthroplasty/arthroscopy)
- Hip arthroplasty (total/partial/revision hip replacement) and hip arthroscopy
- Cervical fusion (anterior)
- Cervical discectomy or microdiscectomy, foraminotomy, and laminotomy
- Lumbar discectomy, foraminotomy, and/or laminotomy
- Small joint surgeries of the foot and ankle
- Reconstruction midface, LeFort I-III
- Sacral-Iliac fusion

#### How to submit a request for review

Starting April 1, 2023, providers can begin submitting requests for review with dates of service on or after March 30, 2023. To reach the FEP Utilization Management (UM) department to submit an authorization request, providers may call our department directly, fax a request, or submit a request via Availity\* with clinical information:

- Phone number: **800-860-2156** - Fax: **800-732-8318**
- Chat: To chat with an FEP UM representative, go to: [www.availity.com](https://www.availity.com). Select **Payer Spaces**, select **Federal**
- **Employee Plan** and access the chat through *Chat with Payer*.

If you do not know your assigned contracting representative, please reference the *Escalation Contact List* available on <https://www.anthem.com>. Select **For Providers**, under *Communications* select **Contact Us** and pick **Colorado** as your state. From the *Contact Us* page, select **Escalation Contact List**, and search *Network Management* to find your representative.

FEP with Anthem values your participation in our network, as well as the services you provide. We look forward to working with you to help improve the health of our members.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Sollender, MD, MBA, FACS  
Regional Vice President and Senior Clinical Officer  
Commercial & Specialty Business Division

\*AIM Specialty Health is an independent company providing some utilization review services on behalf of Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield.