

Services that require precertification

As of January 1, 2026, this list applies to Independence Blue Cross Medicare Advantage.

This applies to services performed on an elective, non-emergency basis.

Because a service or item is subject to precertification, it does not guarantee coverage. The terms and conditions of your benefit plan must be reviewed to determine if any of these services or items are excluded.

For your reference, we have published a list of medical codes for services that require precertification, which is available on our Medical Policy Portal for [Medicare Advantage](#) members.

Inpatient services

- Acute rehabilitation admissions
- Elective surgical and nonsurgical inpatient admissions
- Inpatient hospice admissions
- Long-term acute care (LTAC) facility admissions
- Skilled nursing facility admissions

- Lumbar laminectomy[†]
- Meniscal allograft transplantation of the knee[†]
- Obesity surgery
- Shoulder arthroplasty[†]
- Shoulder arthroscopy and open procedures[†]
- Treatment of osteochondral defects[†]
- Vertebroplasty/kyphoplasty[†]

Cardiology procedures[†]

- Arterial ultrasound
- Diagnostic coronary angiography
- Percutaneous coronary intervention

Reconstructive procedures and potentially cosmetic procedures

- Blepharoplasty/ptosis repair
- Bone graft, genioplasty, and mentoplasty
- Breast: reconstruction, reduction, augmentation, mammoplasty, mastopexy, insertion and removal of breast implants
- Canthopexy/canthoplasty
- Cervicoplasty
- Chemical peels
- Dermabrasion
- Excision of excessive skin and/or subcutaneous tissue
- Gender-affirming interventions
- Genetically and bio-engineered skin substitutes for wound care
- Gynecomastia

Procedures

- Bone graft substitutes and bone morphogenetic proteins for spine surgery[†]
- Cervical decompression with or without fusion[†]
- Cervical disc arthroplasty[†]
- Cochlear implant surgery
- Hip arthroplasty[†]
- Hip arthroscopy and open procedures[†]
- Knee arthroplasty[†]
- Knee arthroscopy and open procedures[†]
- Lumbar disc arthroplasty[†]
- Lumbar discectomy, foraminotomy, and laminotomy[†]
- Lumbar fusion and treatment of spinal deformity (including scoliosis and kyphosis)[†]

[†]Precertification performed by Carelon Medical Benefits Management (formerly AIM Specialty Health®), an independent company. Precertification review benefit varies based on decision by member's employer group.

Services that require precertification (continued)

- Hair transplant
- Injectable dermal fillers
- Keloid removal
- Lipectomy, liposuction, or any other excess fat-removal procedure
- Otoplasty
- Rhinoplasty
- Rhytidectomy
- Scar revision
- Skin closures including:
 - Skin flaps
 - Skin grafts
 - Tissue grafts
- Surgery for varicose veins, including perforators and sclerotherapy

Day rehabilitation programs

Elective (non-emergency) ground, air, and sea ambulance transportation

Outpatient private-duty nursing

Outpatient radiation therapy*

Interventional pain management services[†]

- Epidural injection procedures and diagnostic selective nerve root blocks
- Implanted spinal cord stimulators
- Paravertebral facet injection/nerve block/neurolysis
- Regional sympathetic nerve block
- Sacroiliac joint injections

Radiology[†]

- CT
- CTA
- Echocardiography services
 - Resting transthoracic echocardiography (TTE)
 - Stress echocardiography (SE)
 - Transesophageal echocardiography (TEE)
- MRA
- MRI
- Nuclear cardiology
- PET scans

Home-care services

(Precertification review for PA Medicare lines of business is provided by Tango, an independent company.)

Prosthetics/orthoses including:

- Custom ankle-foot orthoses
- Custom knee-ankle-foot orthoses
- Custom knee braces
- Custom limb prosthetics including accessories/components

Selected durable medical equipment (DME)

- Bone growth stimulators
 - Low-intensity ultrasound noninvasive bone growth stimulation
 - Other than spinal noninvasive electrical bone growth stimulation
 - Spinal noninvasive electrical bone growth stimulation[†]
- Bone-anchored (osseointegrated) hearing aids
 - Bone conduction hearing aids
 - Cochlear implants
- Continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) devices, bi-level (Bi-PAP) devices, and all supplies[†]
- Dynamic adjustable and static progressive stretching devices (excludes CPMs)
- Electric, power, and motorized wheelchairs including custom accessories
- Insulin pumps
- Manual wheelchairs with the exception of those that are rented
- Negative-pressure wound therapy
- Neuromuscular stimulators
- Power-operated vehicles (POV)
- Pressure-reducing support surfaces including:
 - Air-fluidized bed
 - Non-powered advanced pressure-reducing mattress
 - Powered air flotation bed (low air loss therapy)
 - Powered pressure-reducing mattress
- Push rim activated power-assist devices
- Repair or replacement of all DME items, as well as orthoses and prosthetics that require precertification
- Speech-generating devices

Medical foods

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy

Proton beam therapy*

Services that require precertification (continued)

In-lab/facility sleep studies[†]

All transplant procedures except corneal transplants

Mental health/serious mental illness/ substance abuse treatment

- Mental health and serious mental illness treatment (inpatient/partial hospitalization programs/intensive outpatient programs)
- Repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS)
- Substance abuse treatment (inpatient/partial hospitalization programs/intensive outpatient programs)

Autism spectrum disorders

- Applied behavioral analysis (Precertification review for this service is provided by Magellan Healthcare, Inc., an independent company.)

*Precertification review is provided by CareCore National, LLC d/b/a eviCore healthcare (eviCore), an independent company. Precertification review benefit varies based on decision by member's employer group.

†Precertification performed by Carelon Medical Benefits Management (formerly AIM Specialty Health[®]), an independent company. Precertification review benefit varies based on decision by member's employer group.

Independence Blue Cross offers PPO, HMO-POS, and HMO Medicare Advantage plans with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in Independence Blue Cross PPO, HMO-POS, and HMO Medicare Advantage plans depends on contract renewal.



Independence Blue Cross offers products through its subsidiaries Independence Assurance Company, Independence Hospital Indemnity Plan, Keystone Health Plan East, and QCC Insurance Company — independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield.



Genetic and genomic tests requiring precertification*

The following list is a guide to the types of genetic and genomic tests that require precertification.

Due to the volume of tests, it is not possible to list each test separately. To determine if a test requires precertification, please see the complete [procedure code list](#) for details.

Hereditary cancer syndromes

- BRCA gene testing (breast and ovarian cancer syndrome)
- Lynch syndrome gene testing
- Familial adenomatous polyposis gene testing
- PTEN gene testing (Cowden syndrome)
- General cancer type panels (such as colon, breast, or neuroendocrine cancers)

Hereditary heart diseases

- Long QT syndrome gene testing
- Aortic dilation or aneurysm syndrome testing (includes Marfan syndrome)

Other full gene analysis testing

- Cystic fibrosis full gene sequencing and deletion/duplication analysis
- PMP22 full gene sequencing and deletion/duplication analysis (Charcot-Marie-Tooth, hereditary neuropathy)

Tests for many genetic disorders simultaneously

- Expanded carrier screening panels (such as Carrier Status DNA Insight®, Counsyl Family Prep Screen, Pan-Ethnic Carrier Screening)
- Hearing loss panels
- Intellectual disability panels
- Noonan spectrum disorders panels

Specialty oncology tests

- Cancer gene expression or protein signature tests (such as OncotypeDX®, MammaPrint®, Afirma®, Prosigna®, HeproDX™)
- Tumor molecular profiling (such as FoundationOne®, neoTYPE™, OncoPlexDx®, and many others)
- Tissue of origin testing (for cancer of unknown primary)
- PCA3 testing for prostate cancer

Pharmacogenomic tests

- Cytochrome P450 metabolism gene testing (CYP2D6, CYP2C9, CYP2C19)
- Specialized drug response gene panels (such as Assurex GeneSight®, GeneTrait, Genecept®, Millennium PGTSM)
- Warfarin response testing
- MGMT methylation analysis for glioblastoma

Other specialty tests

- Coronary artery disease risk testing (such as CorusCAD®, CardioIQ®, APOE, ACE, KIF6)
- Heart disease risk testing (such as CorusCAD®, CardioIQ®, APOE, ACE, KIF6, MTHFR)

Genome-wide tests

- Microarray studies
- Whole exome testing
- Whole genome testing
- Mitochondrial genome or nuclear testing

ANY genetic test for more than one gene or condition (often includes words like “panel” or “comprehensive” in the name)

ANY genetic test that will be billed with a non-specific procedure code

- Billed with CPT® codes 81400 – 81408 (CPT Copyright 2016 American Medical Association. All rights reserved. CPT® is a registered trademark of the American Medical Association.)
- Billed with an unlisted code: 81479, 81599, 84999

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