

Learning Disabilities Program
Children's Hospital Neurology Foundation
Fegan 11
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To: Families with Blue Cross/Blue Shield Insurance Plans

Re: Neuropsychological Testing Authorization

The Learning Disabilities Program has been informed by BCBS of Massachusetts that prior authorization will be required for neuropsychological testing beginning on May 1, 2009 for all HMO and POS plans and July 1, 2009 for all PPO plans.

All families seeking coverage for the neuropsychological component of testing must work with the Learning Disabilities Program and their child's primary care physician to ensure that the authorization form is completed and submitted prior to testing. Decisions will be made based on whether the testing is considered medically necessary per criteria set by BCBS which will be made available in April.

Based on our experience with other insurance companies, we expect that many requests for preauthorization will be denied as BCBS may view our testing as educationally-focused and not medically necessary. Unless authorization is granted by BCBS prior to the appointment date, payment in full will be required on the testing day for the neuropsychology component (in addition to all other components not covered by insurance and/or your child's school system).

Please read the excerpt below from BCBS and contact your member services department with any questions regarding their policy change.

To help ensure that our members have access to medically necessary neuropsychological testing while maintaining the affordability of health care, BCBSMA will require prior authorization for all neuropsychological testing services. This prior authorization requirement applies to:

- Members of our HMO plans as of May 1, 2009
- Members of our POS plans (for both in-network and out-of-network services) as of May 1, 2009
- Members of our PPO plans (for both in-network and out-of-network services) as of July 1, 2009.

For greater thoroughness and accuracy, we recommend that the referring clinician and the clinician performing the service collaborate on completion of the authorization request form.

After the dates above, all neuropsychological testing authorization requests for HMO, POS, and PPO plans should be requested via the Neuropsychological Testing Request Form, which will be available after April 1, 2009. Authorization can no longer be requested via the POS device.

We will consider authorization of ADHD testing only when there is a well-documented problem of differential diagnosis for which neuropsychological testing can offer a clear resolution. Neuropsychological testing for the routine diagnosis of ADHD is not regarded as medically necessary and therefore will not be authorized. Testing primarily for educational or vocational purposes is not covered.