



Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Utah is an Independent  
Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

## **New Pre-Authorizations for Select Procedures Take Effect August 1, 2011**

Beginning August 1, 2011, Regence will implement new pre-authorization requirements for select medical services. Pre-authorizations are performed to determine if services meet Regence medical necessity criteria, assuring safety, effectiveness and appropriateness of treatments for our members. Ongoing analysis has revealed several opportunities to use prior authorization to enhance quality of care for our members, while better managing costs.

Group and individual members will need pre-authorization for the following services with a date of service August 1, 2011 or later:

- **Hyperbaric oxygen therapy**—involves breathing pure oxygen in a pressurized chamber; used to treat decompression sickness, serious infections and wounds, and other conditions
- **Intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT)**—an advanced type of 3D radiation that uses hundreds of small radiation beams of varying intensities to precisely radiate a tumor
- **Temporomandibular joint (TMJ) surgical intervention**
- **Skilled nursing facility admission**—existing requirements have been modified. Evaluation for medical necessity will be done prior to admission rather than the current practice of reviewing after the 10th day.
- **Mental health and chemical dependency residential treatment center** – existing criteria for admission for psychiatric and/or substance abuse conditions have been modified. Evaluation for medical necessity will be done prior to admission rather than the current practice of reviewing after the 3<sup>rd</sup> day.
- **Select durable medical equipment** – such as negative pressure wound therapy pumps, oscillatory chest compression devices and ultrasonic osteogenesis stimulators.

New MedAdvantage requirements will be implemented in September.

If you have questions, please contact your Regence sales representative.