

SPECIAL eBULLETIN

FOR PROFESSIONAL AND FACILITY PROVIDERS

JUNE 14, 2016

AUTHORIZATION REQUIREMENTS REMOVED FROM CERTAIN "C" CODES

As of Jan. 1, 2016, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield West Virginia (Highmark West Virginia) no longer requires authorization for certain "C" codes that were previously included in the Radiation Therapy Authorization Program. We implemented the system changes to remove these codes from authorization logic on May 25, 2016. Therefore, claims processed for these codes between Jan. 1, 2016, and May 25, 2016, were denied in error. Highmark West Virginia is identifying claims that begin with the date of service Jan. 1, 2016, that were rejected due to no authorization. These claims will be adjusted accordingly. There is no need to submit inquiries on these claim denials. The following codes no longer require authorization for Highmark members:

| Procedure Code | Procedure Code Description |
|----------------|---|
| C1715 | Brachytherapy needle |
| C1716 | Brachytherapy seed, gold 198 |
| C1717 | Brachytherapy seed, high-dose rate iridium 192 |
| C1719 | Brachytherapy seed, non-high-dose rate iridium 192 |
| C1728 | Catheter, brachytherapy seed administration |
| C2616 | Brachytherapy source, yttrium-90, per source |
| C2634 | Brachytherapy source, high activity, iodine-125, greater than 1.01 mci (nist), per source |
| C2635 | Brachytherapy source, high activity, palladium-103, greater than 2.2 mci (nist), per source |
| C2636 | Brachytherapy linear source, palladium-103, per 1 mm |
| C2637 | Brachytherapy source, ytterbium-169, per source |
| C2638 | Brachytherapy source, stranded, iodine-125, per source |
| C2639 | Brachytherapy source, non-stranded, iodine-125, per source |
| C2640 | Brachytherapy source, stranded, palladium-103, per source |
| C2641 | Brachytherapy source, non-stranded, palladium-103, per source |
| C2642 | Brachytherapy source, stranded, cesium-131, per source |
| C2643 | Brachytherapy source, non-stranded, cesium-131, per source |
| C2698 | Brachytherapy source, stranded, not otherwise specified, per source |
| C2699 | Brachytherapy source, non-stranded, not otherwise specified, per source |
| C9725 | Placement of endorectal intracavitary applicator for high-intensity brachytherapy |
| C9726 | Placement and removal (if performed) of applicator into breast for radiation therapy |



Providers should use NaviNet® or the applicable HIPAA electronic transactions to check member benefits and eligibility to verify if an authorization is required. The Radiation Therapy Authorization Program Administrative Guide will be updated soon to reflect the current list of codes that require authorization under this program. The Administrative Guide can be located under **Clinical Reference Materials** on the Provider Resource Center.

Highmark West Virginia is identifying claims that were rejected in error and is adjusting them accordingly. You do not need to call to request an adjustment.