



Massachusetts | Spring 2016

practice**matters**



For More Information

Call our Provider Services Center at **888-735-5842**

Visit **UHCommunityPlan.com**

In This Issue...

- Prior Authorization for Functional Endoscopic Sinus Surgery
- Member Rights and Responsibilities
- Get Updated Clinical Practice Guidelines
- Reminder to Enroll in Electronic Payments & Statements
- New Helicobacter Pylori Testing Medical Policy

We hope you enjoy the spring edition of Practice Matters. In this issue, you can read about Electronic Payments & Statements, clinical practice guidelines, and much more. Happy spring!



Important information for health care professionals and facilities



Prior Authorization Requirement for Functional Endoscopic Sinus Surgery Procedures

Beginning May 2, 2016, certain functional endoscopic sinus surgery procedures will require prior authorization for many UnitedHealthcare Commercial and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan Medicaid benefit plans, excluding Medicare Dual Special Needs Plans (DSNPs) and Medicare Medicaid plans. This requirement was announced in the February issue of the Network Bulletin.

This change is part of our ongoing responsibility to regularly evaluate our medical policies, clinical programs and health benefits compared to the latest scientific evidence and specialty society guidance. Using evidence-based medicine to guide coverage decisions supports quality patient care and reflects our shared commitment to the Triple Aim of better care, better health outcomes and lower costs.

The following functional endoscopic sinus surgery procedures will require prior authorization to evaluate medical necessity in all sites of care:

Procedures	CPT Codes
Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical	31237, 31239, 31240, 31254, 31255, 31256, 31267, 31276, 31287, 31288

In previous communications about this requirement, CPT code 31238 was included. Prior authorization will not be required for that procedure code. This requirement

is effective for UnitedHealthcare Commercial and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan members for dates of service on or after May 2, 2016 in most states. For details, go to UnitedHealthcareOnline.com > Tools & Resources > Policies, Protocols and Guides > Protocols > Prior Authorization for Functional Endoscopic Sinus Surgery FAQ.

If you have questions, please contact your local Network Management representative or call the provider services number on the back of the member's UnitedHealthcare ID card.

Member Rights and Responsibilities

The UnitedHealthcare Community Plan Member Rights and Responsibilities can be found in the **Provider Manual**. Member Rights and Responsibilities are distributed to new members upon enrollment and then annually.

Get Updated Clinical Practice Guidelines

Clinical Practice Guidelines are available at UHCommunityPlan.com. UnitedHealthcare Community Plan promotes the use of nationally recognized evidence-based clinical guidelines to support practitioners in making decisions about health care. Guidelines are available for diabetes, asthma, perinatal care, preventive services, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, depression and many other conditions.



To view a complete list of the most current guidelines, go to UHCommunityPlan.com > For Health Care Professionals > Massachusetts > Clinical Practice Guidelines.

Reminder to Enroll in Electronic Payments & Statements

Electronic Payments & Statements (EPS) is UnitedHealthcare's solution for electronic remittance advice (ERA) and electronic funds transfer (EFT). It allows you to receive direct deposit of claim payments into your designated bank account(s) and access explanation of benefits (EOBs)/remittance advice online

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Important information for health care professionals and facilities

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or via 835 ERA files. You can use EPS to access and manage payment information for most UnitedHealthcare health plans. Enrollment in EPS applies to payments from UnitedHealthcare Commercial; UnitedHealthcare Medicare Solutions; UnitedHealthcare Oxford and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan in Massachusetts and other states.

You can learn more by:

- Visiting WelcometoEPS.com
- Watching a short [video demo](#)
- Attending a live 30-minute [webinar](#) for an overview and answers to questions



Enroll in EPS **online** or send us a completed **enrollment form**. If you have questions, please call 866-842-3278, option 5.



New Helicobacter Pylori Testing Medical Policy

UnitedHealthcare introduced a new medical policy, effective March 1, 2016 for UnitedHealthcare Community Plan members, for the testing, evaluation and management of dyspepsia and peptic ulcer disease (PUD).

The new medical policy describes the American Gastroenterological Association guidelines stating that serology testing (CPT code 86677) which does not test for an active Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori) infection should no longer be used. Stool antigen test or urea breath test should be used rather than serology testing to both diagnose and confirm eradication of an active H. pylori infection.

H. pylori is a class I carcinogen linked as a causative agent in PUD gastric adenocarcinoma and mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue (MALT) lymphoma. The medical policy reflects a “test, treat, retest and confirm eradication” policy in cases of H. pylori infection linked to the development of PUD, gastric malignancy and dyspeptic symptoms, instead of moving directly to proton pump inhibitor (PPI) therapy.



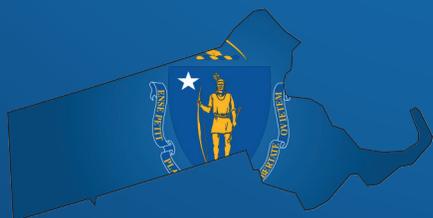
UnitedHealthcare developed the H. pylori testing policy from guidelines issued by the American Gastroenterological Association and the American College of Gastroenterology that emphasize:

- Eliminating serology use because studies show that about 50 percent of patients with a positive H. pylori serology do not actually have an active infection (blood tests do not reliably detect active H. pylori infections and are considered investigational)
- Testing, treating and retesting for active H. pylori infection before prescribing PPI



UnitedHealthcare’s medical policy and information on the recommended tests can be found at UnitedHealthcareOnline.com > Tools & Resources > Policies, Protocols and Guides > Policies > UnitedHealthcare Community Plan Medical Policies and Coverage Determination Guidelines > Helicobacter Pylori Serology Testing.

If you have any questions, please contact your Provider Advocate.



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Practice Matters is a quarterly publication for physicians and other health care professionals and facilities in the UnitedHealthcare network.

