

April 2022

Business Updates

Authorization Code Ranges Format Update

Over the next couple of months, we will be reviewing and revising the [Published Authorization Code Ranges](#) to expand them to include all related codes for the 'Referral Reasons' available on Affiliate Link. You will continue to see changes to these pages until this review is complete. The information contained in these pages is informational and does not guarantee coverage or payment.



When checking to see if the code will be covered as part of the requested service, you should answer these four questions using the indicated resources:

1. Does it require preauthorization or medical necessity review?
See the [Preauthorization Code Check tool](#)
2. Is it in the service range of the requested service?
Check the [Published Authorization Code Ranges](#)
3. Is the code part of your provider contract?
Review the [Provider Manual](#) and your own provider contract
4. Is the code part the member's benefit?
See the [Member Eligibility and Benefits Inquiry](#)

For more information concerning whether a specific service or benefit is covered, call the Kaiser Permanente Provider Assistance Unit at 1-888-767-4670.



HEDIS® Medical Record Review Season: February – May 2022

From February through mid-May 2022, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington will be conducting HEDIS medical record reviews on members enrolled in a Kaiser Permanente plan in 2021 to measure the quality of care provided to our members. Our medical record reviewers will be contacting your office to request remote access to your electronic medical record system (preferred), and/or request that medical records are faxed or mailed. We appreciate your assistance in providing access to the medical information as requested. Your prompt response will ensure that your group's HEDIS measures accurately represent the high quality of care that you provide to our members.

Please contact Susie Jorgensen, HEDIS Program Coordinator at Susie.R.Jorgensen@kp.org or 206-630-1274 if you have any questions.

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Clinical Chart Validation Short Stay Reviews to begin soon



Kaiser Permanente, in partnership with Cotiviti, will be expanding the Clinical Chart Validation (CCV) reviews to include Short Stay reviews. The Short Stay reviews will be performed on a prospective (prepay) basis. As with the CCV DRG reviews, Cotiviti will send medical records requests for selected claims, along with clear instructions on how to submit the records directly to them. Once the review is complete, you will receive a determination letter. If you wish to dispute their findings, instructions will be provided on how to submit a reconsideration request.

Your Kaiser Permanente patients have access to FREE online Better Choices, Better Health[®] self-management workshops

[Better Choices, Better Health](#) is a great option to help support your patient's health goals. This 6-week evidence-based workshop is filled with tips and techniques to help patients manage health concerns that impact their daily life.



This free, personalized program offers:

- Help making action plans and solving problems
- Tips for healthier food choices
- Help designing a personal exercise program
- Tools for managing pain and fatigue
- Breathing exercises
- Medication management
- How to deal with stress, anger, fear, and frustration
- How to be an active partner with the health care team
- Support from other participants who might be going through similar situations

At the end of the workshop, an online, moderated community is available to help our members continue their health journey.

Here's what other Kaiser Permanente members are saying about Better Choices, Better Health:

"Inspiring! Gives me hope that I can do this and commit to the things I need to do to help me. It's always comforting to know that we are not alone in this."

"It was great to have support and understanding regarding my chronic condition, and I was offered many helpful tools in how to manage regular life with my chronic condition. "

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This workshop is offered at no cost to Kaiser Permanente members as part of their member benefit. Workshop enrollment includes a free copy of *Living a Healthy Life with Chronic Conditions* to enhance their learning.

Please go to the [Kaiser Permanente member site](#) to learn more, [print a flyer](#), or have your Kaiser Permanente patients [register online](#).

Clinical Updates

New clinical review criteria for coverage of vocal cord surgery for members with gender dysphoria

Effective April 5, 2022, Kaiser Permanente has implemented clinical review criteria for vocal cord surgery, including pitch lowering or pitch elevation surgery, for members with gender dysphoria. Referrals must be submitted by the Kaiser Permanente Gender Health Case Management team. Criteria for coverage include, among other indications: parameters for speaking fundamental frequency, a prerequisite of consistent engagement with voice therapy for at least 6 months that does not result in the desired pitch, and member agreement to close follow-up post-operatively. The full criteria can be accessed on the [Gender Affirming Surgeries Clinical Review Criteria](#) page on the Kaiser Permanente provider site. The Gender Health Case Management Program can be reached via phone at 1-888-245-9004 or email at Genderhealth@kp.org.



New clinical review criteria for coverage of facial and body hair removal surgery for members with gender dysphoria



Effective March 1, 2022, Kaiser Permanente has implemented clinical review criteria for facial and body hair removal for members with gender dysphoria. Clinical review criteria for hair removal for members with gender dysphoria have been revised to include indications for body hair removal which was previously considered not medically necessary. The full criteria can be accessed on the [Gender Affirming Surgeries Clinical Review Criteria](#) page on the Kaiser Permanente provider site. The Gender Health Case Management Program can be reached via phone at 1-888-245-9004 or email at Genderhealth@kp.org.

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Lung Cancer Screening Guideline updated with new age range

The [Kaiser Permanente Lung Cancer Screening Guideline](#) has been reviewed and updated, and now reflects [the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommendations](#) released in March 2021.



Annual lung cancer screening with low dose computed tomography (LDCT) is now recommended for patients aged 50 through 79 (previously 55 through 74) who meet all three of the following criteria:

- Have at least a 20-year (previously 30-year) pack history, and
- Currently smoke or quit less than 15 years ago, and
- Have no significant comorbidities that would preclude surgical treatment or limit life expectancy

Questions?

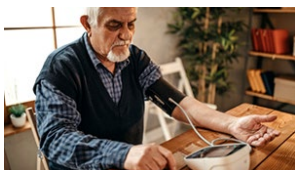
[Maggie Chin, MD](#), KP Washington Cancer Screening Quality Champion

[John Dunn, MD, MPH](#), Medical Director, Clinical Knowledge & Implementation

[Avra Cohen, MN, RN](#), Guideline Coordinator

Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute News

We are pleased to share some of the latest news from the [Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute](#). We invite you to visit their informative website to learn more about their latest research and studies.



[Is blood pressure reading more accurate at home or clinic?](#)

A study led by Beverly Green, MD, MPH, finds home blood pressure monitoring is an excellent alternative for making new diagnoses of hypertension.

[READ MORE AND WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

[Trial confirms safety of mix-and-match COVID-19 vaccine booster](#)

Lisa Jackson, MD, MPH, explains recent results that support boosting with the Moderna, Pfizer, or Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

[READ MORE](#)



[Improving safety, managing pain with trust and rapport](#)

Puyallup team excels at patient-centered care and improving opioid safety for people with persistent pain.

[READ MORE](#)

Provider E-News

Provider Services Department



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Payment Policy Updates

The following payment policies have been recently updated:

- [Virtual Care](#)



Provider Notices



Please check our provider site on a regular basis for provider manual changes and updates. We communicate changes to the [provider manual](#) in the [Provider eNews](#) and in our [Provider Updates](#) for your convenience. However, it is your responsibility to remain updated on our changes by visiting our site regularly for updates on our policies and procedures. Thank you for your partnership in the care of our members.

Provider Notices:

- [Changes to medical necessity review criteria for gender affirming surgeries \(vocal cord surgery\)](#)
- [Changes to medical necessity review criteria for Myocardial Strain Imaging](#)
- [Changes to medical necessity review criteria for left atrial appendage closure therapy](#)
- [Changes to medical necessity review criteria for brain magnetic resonance imaging \(MRI\)](#)
- [Changes to medical necessity review criteria for Eustachian Tube balloon dilation](#)
- [Fracture care in emergency department without manipulation](#)
- [Modifiers 54 & 57](#)
- [Changes to medical necessity review criteria for gender affirming surgeries \(facial and body hair removal\)](#)
- [Medicare Part B drugs requiring prior authorization](#)
- [Colony stimulating factor updates to coverage under medical benefit](#)
- [Medicare Part B drugs requiring step therapy](#)
- [Lanreotide \(Somatuline Depot\) updates to coverage under the medical benefit](#)
- [Esketamine \(Spravato\) updates to coverage under the medical benefit](#)
- [Changes to medical necessity review criteria for chromosomal microarray testing](#)
- [Changes to medical necessity review criteria for ConfirmMDx and SelectMDx](#)
- [Changes to medical necessity review criteria for InPen Smart Insulin Pen](#)
- [Changes to medical necessity review criteria for knee magnetic resonance imaging \(MRI\)](#)
- [Changes to medical necessity review criteria for autologous chondrocyte implantation](#)

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CME and Workshop Opportunities

Continuing Education Opportunities

Kaiser Permanente Washington offers a variety of continuing medical education courses throughout the year, detailed on our [CME Catalog page](#). Check out current opportunities below.



Jul 12, 2022	Suboxone Half-Half Buprenorphine Waiver Course
September 9, 2022	Cardiology for Primary Care
Sep 20, 2022	Evidence-based Medicine
Oct 13, 2022	Mental Health for Primary Care
Nov 4, 2022	Hematology - Oncology for Primary Care
Dec 14, 2022	Skills and Procedures Workshop

Please remember to advise your Provider Services Consultant

Have you made any recent changes to your practice?



Don't forget to let us know so we can update our [provider directory](#). On our [provider site](#) home page, click on Provider Support, and choose Provider Demographic and/or Practice Changes to take you to our [Provider Update Forms](#) page. You will find several helpful links on that page to provide us with information.

On this page, you will be able to:

- Add new practitioners or term practitioners, including advanced registered nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and locum tenens
- Submit staff changes: in case we must adjust our records of clinic staff with Kaiser Permanente Electronic Medical Record (EMR) access.
- Submit demographic and business updates, including:
 - Clinic/services location updates
 - Close a clinic location
 - Remit/billing "Pay to" address updates
 - Tax ID update / Tax ID address update / 1099 address update

Thank you for helping us maintain a compliant and accurate provider directory.