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206-988-2000
206-988-2001
prnotification@kp.org

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc.
CONTRACT MANAGER NAME
Provider Communications, RCB-C2W-02
PO Box 34262, Seattle WA 98124-1262

June 29, 2020

CHANGES TO MEDICAL NECESSITY REVIEW CRITERIA FOR TRANSCATHETER AORTIC VALVE REPLACEMENT (TAVR)

Dear Provider,

Effective September 1, 2020, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc. (Kaiser Permanente) are changing the Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) clinical review criteria to allow coverage for all patients with documented severe, symptomatic aortic valve stenosis, regardless of operative risk.

Clinical review criteria can be found on the Kaiser Permanente provider website at **https://wa-provider.kaiserpermanente.org/static/pdf/hosting/clinical/criteria/pdf/transcatheter_aortic_valve_replacement.pdf.**

What will I need to do differently for my patients with the following Kaiser Permanente health plans?

- **Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Core and SoundChoice Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) members:** Prior authorization is required. Kaiser Permanente will notify the ordering provider, the member, and the member's personal physician of the coverage decision in writing. If services are provided without receiving prior authorization, Kaiser Permanente will not reimburse the provider for these services.
- **Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc. Options Point of Service (POS) members:** Prior authorization is required for in-network coverage. Kaiser Permanente will notify the ordering provider, the member, and the member's personal physician of the coverage decision in writing. If services are provided without receiving prior authorization, Kaiser Permanente will not reimburse the provider for these services.
- **Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc. Access PPO and Elect PPO Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) members:** Prior authorization is required for coverage. Notification for all inpatient services is required. Kaiser Permanente will notify the ordering provider, the member, and the member's personal physician of the coverage decision in writing. If services are provided without receiving prior authorization, Kaiser Permanente will not reimburse the provider for these services.
- **Medicare Advantage**: Prior authorization is required. Kaiser Permanente will notify the ordering provider, the member, and the member's personal physician of the coverage decision in writing. If services are provided without receiving prior authorization, Kaiser Permanente will not reimburse the provider for these services.

Please refer to the provisions of your agreement with Kaiser Permanente, including obtaining the member's prior written agreement to be financially responsible for the specific non-covered service, to determine when providers may bill a member for non-covered services.

These criteria, along with a complete list of Kaiser Permanente Clinical Review Criteria, can be found on the Kaiser Permanente provider website at **https://wa-provider.kaiserpermanente.org** under the header "Authorization & Clinical Review."

If you have any questions about these changes, please contact the Provider Assistance Unit at 509-241-7206 or toll-free at 1-888-767-4670, Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sincerely,

Marc Mora, MD
Senior Medical Director Networks and Care Management
Washington Permanente Medical Group