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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

JULY 30, 2020

**CHANGES TO MEDICAL NECESSITY REVIEW CRITERIA FOR SPORTS HERNIA SURGERY**

Dear Provider,

**Effective October 1, 2020**, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc. (Kaiser Permanente) will implement medical necessity criteria for sports hernia surgery.

**Explanation of the change:**

Surgical treatment of groin pain or sports hernia in athletes is unproven and not medically necessary due to insufficient evidence.

Clinical review criteria can be found on the Kaiser Permanente provider website at [https://wa-provider.kaiserpermanente.org/static/pdf/hosting/clinical/criteria/pdf/sports\\_hernia\\_surgery.pdf](https://wa-provider.kaiserpermanente.org/static/pdf/hosting/clinical/criteria/pdf/sports_hernia_surgery.pdf)

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 am to 5 pm.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Mora".

Marc Mora, MD  
Senior Vice President  
Resource Stewardship and Network Management