

CHANGES TO MEDICAL NECESSITY REVIEW CRITERIA FOR LUMBAR SPINE MRI

This notification applies to the following networks: *Commercial HMO, POS, and PPO.*

A listing of all networks can be found on the provider website at <https://wa-provider.kaiserpermanente.org/communications/letters>

Effective September 1, 2023, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc. (Kaiser Permanente) are updating the Lumbar Spine MRI Criteria.

Explanation of the change:

Clinical review criteria for the Lumbar Spine MRI have been revised to clarify conservative management to include a reduction from 6 weeks to 4 weeks for the duration of trialed physical therapy per episode of pain.

Clinical review criteria can be found on the Kaiser Permanente provider website at: https://wa-provider.kaiserpermanente.org/static/pdf/hosting/clinical/criteria/pdf/mri_lumbar%20spine.pdf

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

- KFHPWA Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) members: Prior authorization is required.
- KFHPWAO Point of Service (POS) members: Prior authorization is required for in-network coverage.
- KFHPWAO Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) members: Prior authorization is required.

Questions: Contact Provider Assistance Unit at 1-888-767-4670, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington Options, Inc.

<CONTRACT MANAGER NAME>

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