



Insurance Pre-Authorization Update #3 - February 2013

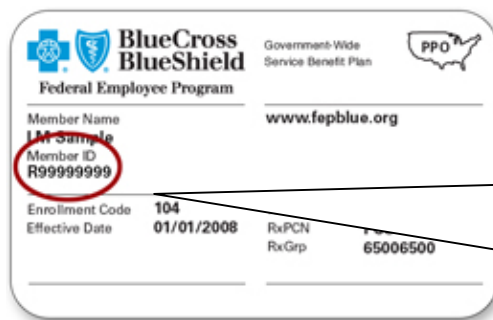
Federal Employee Plan Requires Pre-Authorization for Advanced Imaging Studies

It has recently come to our attention that there has been some confusion over the Blue Cross Blue Shield Federal Employee Plan, and whether or not this plan requires pre-authorization for advanced imaging studies. In Washington state, the Federal Employee Plan:

- Is administered jointly by Premera and Regence
- Requires pre-authorization for CT, CTA, MRI, MRA and PET scans.
- Requires correct use of the AIM portal to obtain pre-authorization.

Using AIM to Obtain Pre-Authorization:

When requesting a pre-authorization through AIM, step one on the site will ask you to “select the member’s healthplan” from a drop down menu. **In order to correctly begin the pre-authorization process, Regence should always be chosen as the primary insurance** rather than Premera. Although the plan is jointly administered, Regence is the company recognized by AIM as paying for this service. If you choose Premera as the member’s primary insurance for an imaging claim, *AIM may falsely respond that no authorization is needed.*



Although the Federal Employee Program cards don't explicitly say it, Regence & Premera are the Blue Cross Blue Shield licensees who administer this nation-wide plan in the Pacific Northwest. For imaging pre-authorization, always choose Regence as the primary insurance plan when the member's ID number begins with an "R" on a Federal Employee Program Card.

The Blue Cross Blue Shield Federal Employee Program is largely administered by Premera and Regence in Washington, but because it is a nationwide program there are also out-of-state plans with very similar cards. If you have questions about whether a member’s coverage was initiated in Washington, the best way to find out is by calling the 1-800 number on the back of the member’s insurance card before attempting to use the AIM website to request a pre-authorization.