Re: AIM Specialty Health’s Sleep Disorder Management Diagnostic and Treatment Guideline changes

Dear Provider:

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield and our subsidiary company, HMO Colorado (Anthem), is writing to inform you that effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2016, the following AIM Specialty Health® (AIM) Sleep Disorder Management Diagnosis and Treatment Guidelines will be revised.

An important component of AIM’s Sleep Disorder Management program focuses on the management of Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) through the use of custom made oral appliances. These appliances include mandibular repositioning appliances that are billed using HCPCS E0486.*

Effective January 1, 2016 AIM will be revising this guideline to ensure that oral appliances used in the treatment of OSA meet the criteria established by CMS for mandibular repositioning appliances. CMS specifies that to be coded as E0486, custom fabricated mandibular advancement devices must:

- Have a fixed mechanical hinge at the sides, front or palate, and,
- Have a mechanism that allows the mandible to be advanced in increments of one millimeter or less, and,
- Be able to protrude the mandible beyond the front teeth at maximum protrusion, and,
- Be adjustable by the beneficiary in increments of one millimeter or less, and,
- Retain the adjustment setting when removed, and
- Maintain mouth position during SLEEP so as to prevent dislodging the device.

Also to this addition to the preamble section of the Guideline, a question will be added to the pre-authorization request. The question will read:

**Does the mandibular repositioning device requested comply with CMS criteria?**

Cases in which the provider responds “No” or “I don’t know” will be routed for review.

*Prefabricated oral appliances (HCPCS code E0485) are not considered appropriate therapy for OSA in any clinical situation.*

We value and appreciate you as our partner in providing quality care. If you have any questions, please call your Provider Engagement and Contracting Manager. We appreciate your continued participation in our network.

Sincerely,

Janet Pogar
RVP, Provider Solutions
Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield