

# Precertification requirements for members covered under the Federal Employee Blue Focus Benefit Plan

The Federal Employee Blue Focus Benefit Plan (FEP) requires precertification for the following services. These services must meet FEP medical policies, which can be accessed at: [fepblue.org/en/benefit-plans/benefit-plans-brochures-and-forms](https://fepblue.org/en/benefit-plans/benefit-plans-brochures-and-forms) and selecting *Medical Policies*.

**NOTE:** Outpatient precertification for FEP (with the exception of gender-affirming surgery) should be obtained by calling Highmark at 1-866-763-3608. Hospice and inpatient precertification continues to be performed by Independence Blue Cross.

- Air ambulance transport (non-emergent)
- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)
- Blood or marrow stem cell transplants
- Breast reduction or augmentation not related to cancer treatment
- Cardiac rehabilitation
- Clinical trials for certain blood or marrow stem cell transplants
- Cochlear implants
- Durable medical equipment (DME) (specialty)
- Elective surgical and non-surgical inpatient admissions
- Gender-affirming surgery
- Gene therapy and cellular immunotherapy (For example, CAR-T and T-cell receptor therapy)
- Genetic testing
- High-cost drugs
- Hospice care (home hospice, continuous home hospice, and inpatient hospice)
- Inpatient/outpatient residential treatment center (RTC) admissions (Call 1-800-688-1911\*)
- Orthognathic surgery procedures, bone grafts, osteotomies, and surgical management of the temporomandibular joint (TMJ)
- Orthopedic procedures: hip, knee, ankle, spine, shoulder, and all orthopedic procedures using computer-assisted musculoskeletal surgical navigation
- Oral maxillofacial surgeries on the jaw, cheeks, lips, tongue, roof and floor of the mouth, and related procedures
- Prosthetic devices (external)
- Proton beam therapy, stereotactic radiosurgery, and stereotactic body radiation therapy
- Pulmonary rehabilitation
- Radiology, high technology including:
  - Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)
  - Computed tomography (CT) scan
  - Positron emission tomography (PET) scan
- Reconstructive surgery for conditions other than breast cancer
- Reproductive services
- Rhinoplasty
- Septoplasty
- Sperm/egg storage
- Procedures to treat severe obesity
- Transplants
- Varicose vein treatment

Failure to obtain precertification will result in a retrospective review to determine compliance with FEP medical policies and guidelines. Should services be denied for lack of medical necessity, reimbursement will not be made, and the member may not be billed.

\*Exception: No retrospective review will be done for medical necessity for RTC. All precertification requirements must be met prior to admission.

Independence Blue Cross offers products through its subsidiaries Independence Assurance Company, Independence Hospital Indemnity Plan, Keystone Health Plan East, and QCC Insurance Company — independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

