



<b>Policy Title: Assistant Surgeon Review</b>		<b>POLICY #: 70.2.6</b>	
		<b>Line of business: ALL</b>	
<b>Department Name:</b> Utilization Management	<b>Original Date</b> 11/97	<b>Effective Date</b> 5/19	<b>Revision Date</b> 12/18
<b>Department Head: Sr. Director, UM</b> 			<b>Date: 3/21</b>
<b>Medical Services/P&amp;T Committee: (If Applicable): PHP CMO</b> 			<b>Date: 3/21</b>

**PURPOSE**

To establish and define mechanisms for the Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan (Blue Shield Promise) Utilization Management (UM) Department to review, approve, deny, or modify the use of Assistant Surgeons for elective surgeries.

**POLICY**

Blue Shield Promise will utilize Milliman Care Guidelines for determination of the need for assistant surgeons for elective surgical procedures. Milliman Care Guidelines criteria contain an extensive list, by CPT code, or surgical procedure determined to require as Assistant Surgeon.

**PROCEDURE**

**CASE MANAGER REVIEW:** When Blue Shield Promise UM Department receives a request for prior authorization of surgery, with a request for an assistant surgeon, the Case Manager will access the Milliman Care Guidelines criteria to determine that the surgery itself satisfies the criteria.

If the surgery does not require an assistant surgeon per the criteria list, the Case Manager will request additional information from the attending surgeon. If the attending surgeon is able to substantiate the need for an assistant surgeon, the Case Manager will approve the request.

If the request for an assistant surgeon is not substantiated, she/he will advise the attending surgeon that the case will be referred to the Blue Shield Promise Chief Medical Officer or physician reviewer for evaluation.

**MEDICAL REVIEW:** The Chief Medical Officer or physician reviewer will evaluate the information provided to the Case Manager by the attending surgeon. If necessary, the attending surgeon will be contacted, and the case reviewed or additional information obtained.

If the Chief Medical Officer or physician reviewer approves the request for an assistant surgeon, the case will be returned to the Case Manager for processing.

If the Chief Medical Officer or physician reviewer denies the request for an assistant surgeon, the case will be returned to the Case Manager for processing and notification. Notification will take place as outlined in P&P 10.2.11 – Medi-Cal or 50.2.11 – Medicare

**REFERENCES**