

Clinical documentation requirements for musculoskeletal procedures

For Blue Cross' PPO (commercial), Medicare Plus BlueSM PPO,
BCN HMOSM (commercial) and BCN AdvantageSM members

September 2020

When submitting authorization requests to TurningPoint Healthcare Solutions, LLC, for musculoskeletal procedures, you must include the following clinical documentation:*

Requirement	Details
Office visit notes	<p>Must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of present illness • Results of physical exam • Past medical history • Surgical history (preferred, but not necessary for every case) • Surgical plan with a discussion of risks and benefits
Imaging reports	<p>Submit all available imaging reports.</p> <p>TurningPoint will accept objective documentation from the surgeon for X-rays taken and read in house.</p> <p>For images taken outside of the provider's office, send the radiology report.</p> <p>If there are differences between the surgeon's and the radiologist's interpretations of imaging, TurningPoint will request addendums to the radiology report for clarification.</p>
Conservative therapies	<p>Conservative therapy requirements differ by procedure type.</p> <p>For physical therapy (or a home exercise program), include detailed documentation in the medical record, including the frequency and duration of the exercises.</p> <p>If TurningPoint can't determine whether the patient has tried and failed the course of therapy based on the details you provide, TurningPoint will request PT (or home exercise program) notes.</p>
Body mass index	<p>If appropriate, the medical record must provide evidence of weight reduction activities as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For a BMI of 30 to 34, the medical record must reflect that the surgeon has had a discussion with the patient about his or her weight. • For a BMI of 35 to 40, the medical record must include a documented plan for weight loss. <p>A BMI greater than 40 is a contraindication for total hip replacement, unless significant weight loss is clearly documented in the medical record.</p>
Smoking status	<p>Include the patient's current smoking status.</p> <p>If applicable, include the date on which the patient will quit smoking.</p>

*See GN-1002 Medical Record Documentation for documentation requirements. This documentation is included with all TurningPoint medical policies, which you can find in the TurningPoint Provider Portal.