ASURIS NORTHWEST HEALTH

January 1, 2026

The Bulletin

This monthly bulletin includes recent changes to our medical and reimbursement policies.

Notes

- *The Bulletin* is a supplement to our bimonthly provider newsletter, *The Connection*.
    - Medication policy updates are published in *The Connection*.
- Dental policy updates are published in the News section of **asurisdental.com/providers**.

Medical policies

Changes effective January 1, 2026

Durable Medical Equipment

- Definitive Lower Limb Prostheses (#18)
- Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetic and Orthotic Replacements, Duplicates, Repairs, and Upgrades to Existing Equipment (#75)
- General Medical Necessity Guidance for Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetic, Orthotics and Supplies (DMEPOS) (#88)
- Myoelectric Prosthetic and Orthotic Components for the Upper Limb (#80)
- Powered and Microprocessor-Controlled Knee and Ankle-Foot Prostheses and Microprocessor-Controlled Knee-Ankle-Foot Orthoses (#81)
    - Updated the policies listed above to align with Oregon SB699 and Washington HB1699

Genetic Testing

- Identification of Microorganisms Using Nucleic Acid Probes (#85)
    - Added the following panels and tests:
        - Joint infection panels and endometrial pathogen panels as investigational
        - Hepatitis D as potentially medically necessary

Laboratory

- Drug Testing for Substance Use and Pain Management (#68)
    - Updated policy in alignment with the Q1 2026 code set update

Medicine

- Bioengineered Skin and Soft Tissue Substitutes and Amniotic Products (#170)
    - Removed the DermaGraft product from the criteria because it is no longer commercially available
- Gender Affirming Interventions for Gender Dysphoria (#153)
    - Specified time frame for hormone therapy
- Low-Level Laser Therapy (#105)
    - Added criterion for FDA-approved device
- New and Emerging Medical Technologies and Procedures (#149)
    - Updated the policy in alignment with the Q1 2026 code set update

- Skin Lesion Imaging and Spectroscopy (#174)
    - Added Raman spectroscopy to list of procedures addressed by the policy

Radiology
- Artificial Intelligence Augmented Analysis of Atherosclerotic Plaque from Computed Tomography Scan (#61)
    - New policy

Surgery
- Annular Closure Devices (#243)
    - New policy
- Irreversible Electroporation (#242)
    - New policy
- Intravascular Lithotripsy (#233)
    - Changed policy title; policy was previously titled *Coronary Intravascular Lithotripsy*
    - Expanded scope to include all intravascular lithotripsy
- Surgical Treatments for Glaucoma (#227)
    - Changed policy title; policy was previously titled *Laser Trabeculotomy and Trabeculostomy*
    - Combined multiple glaucoma treatment policies
- Ultrasound-Guided Percutaneous Needle Release for the Treatment of Carpal Tunnel Syndrome (#241)
    - New policy

Utilization Management
- Surgical Site of Care – Colonoscopy (#20)
    - Added criteria to address:
        - Irritable bowel disease
        - Hereditary polyposis syndromes
- Surgical Site of Care – Hospital Outpatient (#19)
    - Removed colonoscopy from this policy because it is now addressed in the new *Surgical Site of Care – Colonoscopy* (Utilization Management #20) policy

Changes effective April 1, 2026
Laboratory
- Drug Testing for Substance Use and Pain Management (#68)
    - Changed two codes from medically necessary to not medically necessary

Surgery
- Annular Closure Devices (#243)
    - Adding HCPCS C9757

View our Medical Policy Manual

Medicare Advantage product discontinuation

We have discontinued our Medicare Advantage PPO offerings in Spokane County, effective January 1, 2026. We continue to offer Medicare supplement plans for Medicare beneficiaries in our service area.

Join our medical policy discussion

We encourage input as policies are developed, but we also have a formal process that allows you to submit additional information—such as well-designed, published clinical trials—that may warrant a policy review. To share your feedback about our medical policies, join our reviewer list.

Recent updates and archived medical policies

We encourage you to review recent updates and archived medical policies, which may also include revisions that will be published in the next issue of *The Bulletin*.

Reimbursement policies

Changes effective April 1, 2026

Administrative

- Radiation Oncology (#151)
    - Adding CPT 77285 to the Treatment Simulation section

View our Reimbursement Policy Manual

Reimbursement policy feedback

We encourage physicians and other health care professionals to share their input using our Reimbursement Policy Feedback Form.

Verify your provider information

Providing up-to-date and accurate information about the providers in each of our networks is critical for our members to access care, and it's a requirement for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Medicare Advantage plans.

Validating provider directory content

Practice information, including rosters, must be reviewed and validated in its entirety at least once every 90 days. Follow these steps to review the information about your practice.

- Respond timely to our requests for verification of your directory data.
- If your clinic or facility submits provider rosters to us, please send changes, corrections, additions or terminations immediately so we can update our directories as soon as possible.

We appreciate your assistance in keeping information about your practice up to date.

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