

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan

Spine and Joint Care Program

127 million people in the United States live with a condition that affects their muscles, bones, joints and issues with tendons and ligaments¹. In fact, each year it's estimated that musculoskeletal conditions are responsible for \$213 billion in costs associated with treatment, care and lost wages². Those conditions, referred to as musculoskeletal conditions, cause employees to suffer pain, discomfort and can affect their jobs. To help combat this issue, Blue Cross developed the Spine and Joint Care Program. This program focuses on making sure your employees get safe and appropriate treatment.

What drives the cost associated with musculoskeletal issues?

Not adhering to medical guidelines that result in procedures that are not medically necessary

- Even though there are established evidence-based guidelines for treating musculoskeletal issues, these guidelines are not always followed.
- This can result in unnecessary care that can lead to poor outcomes and additional procedures or surgeries.
- At times, some surgeries may include unnecessary procedure codes that drive up the cost of care.

The Blue Cross Spine and Joint Care Program is designed to address the variability that exists by making sure treatment provided to our members is necessary and adheres to the clinical guidelines. This helps ensure the best possible outcome.



Confidence comes with every card.®

¹American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, March 2016

²According to a 2021 report from the World Health Organization

How Blue Cross' Spine and Joint Care Program can help.

MSK Surgical Quality & Safety Management Program

- Through this program, we help to ensure that health care providers are following evidence-based guidelines and providing clinically appropriate care.
- Following these guidelines helps lead to:
 - Faster recovery times
 - Lower out of pocket costs
 - Lower risk of additional surgery
 - Fewer complications and infections
 - Care provided at the right time, in the right setting
- This is accomplished through prior authorization and expert clinical review of spine and joint surgeries and pain procedures.
- The clinical reviews are conducted by same-specialty orthopedic surgeons who review the cases and even conduct peer-to-peer discussions with the health care providers.
- Blue Cross has designated certain providers as Spine Care and Knee/Hip Care Program Participants.
- These are high-performing providers and facilities who have proven their ability to manage costs for musculoskeletal surgeries.
- These designated providers are located both in and outside of Michigan.
 - In Michigan, providers must meet volume and cost criteria for select musculoskeletal episodes of care and be engaged in our Collaborative Quality Initiatives.
 - Outside of Michigan, designated facilities meet volume, cost and quality criteria.
- Members can find the designation for providers or facilities through their member account or the Blue Cross app.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW THE SPINE AND JOINT CARE PROGRAM CAN HELP YOU MANAGE YOUR COSTS, CONTACT YOUR BLUE CROSS ACCOUNT REPRESENTATIVE.