

June 11, 2008



Independent Licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

IMPORTANT REMINDER – On July 1, 2008 AIM is responsible for the Administration of Outpatient Advanced Diagnostic Imaging Services for BCBSVT and TVHP members

This is a reminder that effective **July 1, 2008** Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont (BCBSVT) and The Vermont Health Plan (TVHP) have delegated the utilization review of elective outpatient advanced diagnostic imaging services to American Imaging Management (AIM).

Providers ordering outpatient imaging procedures (including: CT/CTA scans, MRI/MRA/MRS scans, and PET scans) for our members must contact AIM to obtain prior approval before scheduling the procedure. Beginning June 16, 2008 prior approval requests may be made through the easy-to-use **ProviderPortalSM** Web site (www.americanimaging.net) or through AIM's high-performance call center by calling toll free (800) 701-0080. When accessing the **ProviderPortalSM** Web site for the first time, you will be required to register before being able to submit your prior approval requests.

Important things to remember when creating your profile:

- ✓ Select BCBS Vermont from the drop down menu to begin the registration process.
- ✓ The registration PIN number is 191-83169
- ✓ You must register using a vendor/group/billing National Provider Number (NPI). Do not use individual rendering NPI numbers, unless the number serves as a billing NPI number also.
- ✓ If your practice uses more than one NPI vendor/group/billing number, registration under each NPI number is necessary.
- ✓ More than one profile can be created per vendor/group/billing NPI. If your office has multiple users, we encourage each individual to register.

Important Note: Imaging procedures must have prior approval through AIM unless patients receive these services in an inpatient, observation or emergency room setting.

The Provider Relations and AIM Teams have completed statewide educational session on this topic. All materials supplied during those sessions are available on the bcbsvt.com website under: Forms and Publications, Provider Forms, Operational Training Sessions. If you did not have an opportunity to attend one of these sessions and need more information contact your Provider Relations Consultant at (888) 449-0443. We will review the information with you or if appropriate, schedule a site visit to provide training.

We are confident this new partnership and process will provide administrative efficiencies for your office.