

# BRIEF

Bi-monthly newsletter to keep you connected

**Congratulations BIDMC Top Doctors, Glaucoma Awareness Month, New DOI Regulations, PPLC Roles and Responsibilities, Office Expense Savings through Yankee Alliance**

Beth Israel Lahey Health 

**Congratulations  
to our 2024  
Top Doctors**

You make us proud.

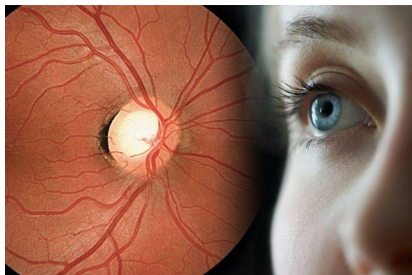
[bilh.org/topdocs](https://bilh.org/topdocs)



## 193 BIDMC Hospital Physicians Recognized in Boston Magazine's 2024 'Top Doctors'

*Boston Magazine* has named 193 physicians and surgeons from 42 medical specialties affiliated with Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC) to its annual 'Top Doctors' guide. Drawing from a Castle Connolly Medical Ltd. Physician database, the list consists of Boston-area physicians and is available on *Boston Magazine's* [website](#).

[Click here to see the full list](#)



### January is Glaucoma Awareness Month

More than 3 million people in the United States have Glaucoma, half of whom do not know they have it. There are no early symptoms and more than 40% of vision can be lost without a person knowing it. The only way to check for it is through a comprehensive dilated eye exam. There is no cure for glaucoma, but starting treatment as early as possible can help stop vision loss. Glaucoma awareness month is a good time to encourage patients to make their appointment to be checked for this disease. Participating ophthalmology providers can be found through the BILHPN directory found [here](#).

## Urgent News: Division of Insurance Bulletin

On January 16, Division of Insurance (DOI) released 3 new bulletins:

### **Bulletin 2024-01 – “Using Standard Prior Authorization Forms when Reviewing Requests for Applied Behavioral Analysis Services”**

Issued to inform insurance carriers and providers of the new standardized prior authorization form to be used when requesting Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) services

### **Bulletin 2024-02 – “Content of Behavioral Health Wellness Examinations according to Chapter 177 of the Acts of 2022 (“Chapter 177”)**

Chapter 177 amended Massachusetts law to require that individual or group insured health coverage issued in the commonwealth shall provide coverage for an annual mental health wellness examination. The exam may be performed by a primary care provider or a licensed behavioral health clinician. This bulletin expands on the requirement and provides information on the content of an exam, the coding, and the implementation plans that carriers must submit to the DOI. By February 15, carriers are expected to update their consumer materials to advise covered members about the availability of these exams without cost sharing and to advise providers on billing and reimbursement.

### **Bulletin 2024-03 – “Step Therapy Protocols Pursuant to Chapter 254 of the Acts of 2022 (“Chapter 254”)**

Step therapy is defined as a “utilization management policy or program that establishes the specific sequence in which a prescription drug for a specified medical condition is covered by a carrier.” This bulletin applies to fully insured Massachusetts licensed carriers that provide coverage for prescription drugs and outlines the process to request an exception to step therapy protocols. Exceptions may be requested when the drug required under the step therapy protocol is contraindicated, expected to be ineffective, has previously been tried and was ineffective and thus discontinued, or the patient is stable on a prescription drug prescribed by their provider and switching drugs will likely cause an adverse reaction. The exception request must be acted on not more than 3 business days following the receipt of all information or within 24 hours for urgent situations. Carriers are expected to forward implementation plans to the DOI by February 15<sup>th</sup>.

For more information click [here](#)

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### **PPLLC support is here when you need it**

The PPLLC team is available to support the work of you and your practice. Our two operations administrators, Leslie Levine and Diana O’Malley are available to assist in a variety of ways. We have listed their main responsibilities as well as their contact information. If you are not sure who to contact, you can email [PLLCAdministration@bidmc.harvard.edu](mailto:PLLCAdministration@bidmc.harvard.edu) and one of them will reach out to you to discuss your need.

Leslie Levine: [llevine5@bidmc.harvard.edu](mailto:llevine5@bidmc.harvard.edu)

- Provider relations

- Office manager contact
- Newsletter articles
- CMS Quality Payment Plan (QPP) payment resource

Diana O'Malley: [domalley@bidmc.harvard.edu](mailto:domalley@bidmc.harvard.edu)

- PPLC membership applications
- Fee schedule distribution
- Payor mix survey
- Audit of health plan rosters

We are here to assist you so please reach out with questions.

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- Reduce member expenses using purchasing power to obtain best price contracts.
- Provide members with analytics resources and reporting that turn opportunities into action.
- Support members with subject matter **EXPERTISE** and collaborative tools to implement savings.



For more information, please contact **Leslie Levine, Operations Administrator, PPLC** at [llevine5@bidmc.harvard.edu](mailto:llevine5@bidmc.harvard.edu)

<https://www.yankeealliance.com/>

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Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached via email at [PLLCAdministration@bidmc.harvard.edu](mailto:PLLCAdministration@bidmc.harvard.edu) or leave me a message at (617) 632-9728 and I will get back to you.



**Deb Schoenthaler, Executive Director**



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