

Managed Care Operations Memorandum
General Operations
MCOPS Memo # 06/2021-007

Date: June 14, 2021

Subject: Updates to Prior Authorization Requirements for Certain Services During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

To: Physical Health HealthChoices Managed Care Organizations (PH-MCOs) - Statewide

From: Laurie Rock, Director, Bureau of Managed Care Operations, Office of Medical Assistance Programs

Purpose:

The purpose of this memo is to inform the PH-MCOs that, effective July 1, 2021, and as described Medical Assistance Bulletin 99-21-03, "Reinstatement of Prior Authorization for Certain Services," issued April 30, 2021 (found [here](#)), the Department of Human Services (Department) will and the PH-MCOs may reinstate the prior authorization requirements that were in place on February 29, 2020, for all services except shift care services for children under the age of 21 (twenty-one).

Background:

On May 7, 2020, the Department issued Provider [Quick Tip #241](#), "Prior Authorization Changes in the Medical Assistance Program for Certain Services during COVID-19 Emergency Disaster," to announce changes to the prior authorization requirements for certain services in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. This Quick Tip was also applicable to services provided through the PH-MCOs and CHC-MCOs.

The services with prior authorization requirement changes were Inpatient Hospital Admissions, including Long-Term Acute Care Hospitals, Home Health, Hospice Services, Radiology, Medical Supplies and Durable Medical Equipment (DME), Shift Nursing, Inpatient Rehabilitation Services, and Skilled Nursing Facility Services.

Discussion:

Effective for the dates of services on and after July 1, 2021, the PH-MCOs may reinstate any prior authorization requirements in place on February 29, 2020, for all services except

for shift care for children under the age of 21 (twenty-one). The PH-MCOs must notify providers at least 30 (thirty) days in advance if it is reinstating prior authorization.

Prior authorization requirements continue to be suspended for shift nursing and shift home health aide services, as described in Quick Tip #241.

While the authorization requirements for shift care services continue to be suspended for claims payment purposes, services will be subject to a retrospective review for medical necessity.

Prior authorization requirements may be reinstated for the following services:

- Inpatient Hospital Admissions
- Long-Term Acute Care Hospitals
- Home Health
- Hospice Services
- Inpatient Rehabilitation Services
- Skilled Nursing Facility Services
- Medical Supplies and DME, to include the procedure codes and items listed below.
- Radiology Services – CT scans of the chest related to the diagnosis or treatment of COVID-19.

Next Steps: PH-MCOs may reinstate prior authorization requirements as described in this OPS Memo beginning on or after July 1, 2021.

Obsolete:

N/A

Attachment:

N/A