

# CHIP Policy Clarification

---

## CHIP Policy Clarification 2020-03

**ISSUE DATE:** March 24, 2020

**REISSUE DATE:** June 17, 2020

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Immediately

**SUBJECT:** Directions to Bypass the Prior Authorization Requirements for CT Scans of the Chest for COVID-19 Patients

**TO:** CHIP Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)

**FROM:** *Patricia Allon*  
**Patricia Allan**  
Executive Director, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

**PURPOSE:**

To provide directions to bypass the prior authorization requirements for CT Scans of the Chest for COVID-19 patients.

**BACKGROUND:**

On March 11, 2020, Governor Wolf issued a press release announcing that CHIP will cover COVID-19 testing and treatment for recipients and is lifting some prior authorization requirements to ease access to necessary testing and treatment.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Office of CHIP recognizes that patients with or being tested for COVID-19 may need a Computed Tomography scan, known as a CT Scan of the chest. To that end, CHIP MCOs should not require a prior authorization for a CT Scan of the chest when the patient has or is being tested for COVID-19.

MCOs should contact their in-network providers advising them of the waiver of prior authorization requirements for CT Scans.

**NEXT STEPS:**

1. Review the information in this policy clarification with appropriate staff.

2. Implement this policy clarification immediately.
3. This policy clarification will remain in effect while a valid disaster declaration authorized by the Governor related to the COVID-19 virus remains in effect. The OOC may re-issue this policy clarification as appropriate.
4. Questions concerning this transmittal should be directed to Virginia Perry at (717) 772-1110 or via email at [virperry@pa.gov](mailto:virperry@pa.gov).