

PROVIDER BULLETIN

PROVIDER INFORMATION



September 1, 2023

Inpatient Hospital Admission Prior Authorization Removed for Medicare Advantage; Pre-Admission Notification Required

Effective for inpatient admissions with dates of service beginning November 1, 2023, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota (Blue Cross) will be doing the following for Medicare Advantage members:

- Removing the prior authorization and concurrent review requirement for inpatient admissions for medical/mental health, substance use, and non-MN admissions or non-participating facility
- Adding a pre-admission notification (PAN) requirement for inpatient admissions for medical/mental health, substance use, and non-MN admissions or non-participating facility

No determination of medical necessity will be made by Blue Cross at the time of admission. Member admissions must be medically necessary and are subject to retrospective review or audit. Notifications can be completed under the Authorizations & Referrals tab in Availity Essentials (<https://apps.availity.com>) under Inpatient Authorization.

Why does Blue Cross require admission notifications?

Blue Cross uses admission and discharge data to identify members who may benefit from additional support or specialty services, such as case management, disease management and behavioral health support programs. The Blue Cross Case Management team also offers support to members as they transition back home or to a post-acute care facility. Blue Cross Case Managers review the discharge summary details and work with members to avoid preventable readmissions by ensuring they understand medication changes, signs and symptoms that would require immediate attention, attend scheduled follow-up appointments, and follow through with discharge instructions after they return home. For longer stays, Blue Cross may also work with the hospital case manager prior to discharge to help with discharge planning and coordinating post-acute care if needed.

Products Impacted

This information only applies to the Medicare Advantage line of business.

Questions?

Please contact provider services at **(651) 662-5200** or **1-800-262-0820**.