

Medicare Advantage Pre-Admission Notification Required - Frequently Asked Questions

December 4, 2023

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.

Questions	Response
Question	Answer
Admission notifications with admit date prior to 11/1/2023? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concurrent Stay Review • Discharge 	If a member was admitted prior to 11/1 and remains IP, concurrent review would be required, and discharge date.
Admission notifications with admit date on or after 11/1/2023? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concurrent Stay Review • Discharge 	It is a notification, and no medical necessity review is needed. The provider can assume that the days of stay are authorized regardless of auth dates. No other action is needed (except the d.c date).
What types of Inpatient stays are changing to notification only for admit date 11/1/2023 or after?	Medical/mental health Substance use Non-MN admissions Non-participating facility
How many days are given on auto approval?	After 11/1, for new admissions, the system automatically places the 7-day approval on the admission notification.

What happens if the patient stay extends beyond 7 days?	No action necessary to extend patient stay. Discharge date should be added to notification.
Will the system prevent discharge date that is beyond the auto approved 7 days?	No. The system does not edit approved days against the discharge date.
What actions can be taken once notification is submitted in Availity?	<p>Availity will not prompt additional actions.</p> <p>Withdraw - provider can withdraw the case if patient admit date/location changes and submit a new notification.</p> <p>Update – provider can update notification with discharge date.</p> <p>Add attachments and Concurrent Stay – these options remain as no system changes were made.</p>
Does this change affect inpatient admission authorizations for Commercial?	<p>No, Commercial Inpatient Admission notifications will continue to auto approve.</p> <p>Concurrent Stay: is needed after 7 days</p>
Does this change affect inpatient admission authorizations for FEP (Federal Employee Program) members?	No, FEP requires an IP pre certification and concurrent review for the LOS.
Why does a discharge date need to entered?	D/C dates are needed to assist with member transitions of care. Case Managers work with members within 48 hours of d.c from an IP stay to ensure members have follow up appts, medications, and understand discharge instructions to decrease readmissions and ER.
If a concurrent stay review is not required, what ensures that the claim will be paid?	Claim edits or system changes have been made to look for the notification, but not the Med Nec or concurrent day count as in other LOB.

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