

Starting June 1, submit prior authorization requests for ABA services through e-referral

Beginning June 1, 2023, licensed behavior analysts, or LBAs, in Michigan must submit prior authorization requests for applied behavior analysis, or ABA, services through the e-referral system. Currently, LBAs submit these requests by fax.

This change affects LBAs who provide ABA services to Blue Care Network commercial and BCN Advantage members.

Notes:

- For Blue Cross commercial members, submit requests through New Directions[®] Behavioral Health WebPass portal. Prior authorization isn't required for ABA services for Medicare Plus Blue members.
- Due to Michigan's prior authorization law requirements, all providers must submit prior authorization requests electronically whenever possible. This requirement applies to behavioral health, medical and pharmacy services that require prior authorization. For more information about the requirements of the law, see the provider alert titled [Update: Prior authorization changes coming in June](#).

LBAs must have access to Availity[®] and the e-referral system

To prepare for this change, LBAs must contact their Availity administrator so the administrator can:

- Give them access to our provider portal (availity.com*).
- Set up their access to the e-referral tool.

Important! Contact your Availity administrator as soon as possible to allow time for them to complete all necessary steps. If your organization is registered for Availity but you don't know who your Availity administrator is, you can identify them by logging in to our provider portal (availity.com*), clicking your name in the top navigation, clicking *My Account*, clicking *Organization(s)* and then clicking *Open My Administrators*.

If your organization isn't registered with Availity, see the [Register for web tools](#) page on bcbsm.com.

Training on Availity and the e-referral system

Be sure to do the following:

1. **As soon as you have your Availity user ID and password:** Access recorded training within Availity, including the *Authorization Request & Referral Request for BCBSM Providers – Recorded Webinar*. It's important that you complete this training before attending the LBA-specific live webinars discussed below because it includes information that won't be covered in



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Provider alert

BCN commercial and BCN AdvantageSM

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the live webinars. For information about accessing recorded training, see the [Availity Essentials user guide](#).

2. **Sign up for a live LBA-specific webinar (registration coming soon):** We'll schedule webinars in mid- to late-June so LBAs can learn how to submit prior authorization requests for ABA services, including accessing and completing the required form and attaching it to the case in the e-referral system. We'll also show how to submit requests for concurrent reviews. Watch for a provider alert to learn more about the process and register for a webinar.

*Clicking this link means that you're leaving the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network website. While we recommend this site, we're not responsible for its content.

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