

## Prior authorization changes for varicose vein treatments

For dates of service on or after Sept. 1, 2023, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network are making changes to the prior authorization processes for:

- Endovenous ablation for the treatment of varicose veins
- Varicose vein treatment

### What happens now

For dates of service on or before Aug. 31, 2023, a questionnaire opens in the e-referral system when you request prior authorization as follows:

Questionnaire	Lines of business	Procedure codes
<i>Endovenous ablation for treatment of varicose veins</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medicare Plus Blue</li> <li>• BCN commercial</li> <li>• BCN Advantage</li> </ul>	*36473, *36474, *36482, *36483
<i>Varicose vein treatment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BCN commercial</li> <li>• BCN Advantage</li> </ul>	*36465, *36466, *36470, *36471, *36475, *36476, *36478, *36479, *37718, *37700, *37722, *37780, *37785, *37799, S2202

Once you answer the questions in the questionnaire, the e-referral system either approves or pends the request. If the case pends and we can't authorize it, we'll request additional clinical information.

### What's changing

For dates of service on or after Sept. 1, 2023, the procedure codes listed above will continue to require prior authorization.

However, the steps you'll need to take will vary because, we're updating the e-referral system due to significant changes to the medical policies for the procedures. This will happen in two phases:

Phase	What will happen	Start date
1	<p>Instead of completing a questionnaire, you'll need to <b>attach clinical information</b> in the <i>Case Communication</i> field when you create the case in the e-referral system.</p> <p>To learn how to attach clinical information, see the <i>Submit an outpatient authorization</i> section of the <a href="#">e-referral User Guide</a>.</p>	Sept. 1

Phase	What will happen	Start date
2	Questionnaires will open in the e-referral system. The questionnaires that open will vary based on the procedure code entered and the member's coverage (commercial or Medicare Advantage).	To be determined

Watch for a provider alert with additional information, including the date on which the new questionnaires will start opening.

## Medical policies

To view the medical policy for a specific procedure code:

1. Go to [bcbsm.com/providers](https://bcbsm.com/providers).
2. Click *Resources*.
3. Click *Search Medical Policies*.
4. In the [Medical Policy Router Search](#) page, enter the appropriate procedure code in the Policy/Topic Keyword field and press *Enter*.
5. Click a link to open a medical policy.

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