

## Changes to prior authorization request process for varicose vein procedures

Due to changes to our *Treatment of varicose veins/venous insufficiency* medical policy, we're changing the prior authorization process for varicose vein procedures.

Keep reading to learn more.

### Questions presented in e-referral system

In late November, we'll remove the following questionnaires from the e-referral system:

- *Endovenous ablation for treatment of varicose veins* — This questionnaire currently opens for Medicare Plus Blue, Blue Care Network commercial and BCN Advantage members for procedure codes \*36473, \*36474, \*36482 and \*36483.
- *Varicose vein treatment* — This questionnaire currently opens for BCN commercial and BCN Advantage members for procedure codes \*36465, \*36466, \*36470, \*36471, \*36475, \*36476, \*36478, \*36479, \*37718, \*37700, \*37722, \*37780, \*37785, \*37799 and S2202.

Instead of completing a questionnaire, the e-referral system will prompt you to answer a series of questions when submitting prior authorization requests. Here are the details:

- For procedure codes \*36473, \*36474, \*36482, the e-referral system will display questions when submitting requests for Medicare Plus, BCN commercial and BCN Advantage members.
- For procedure codes \*36465, \*36466, \*36470, \*36471, \*36475, \*36478, \*37718, \*37700, \*37722, \*37780, \*37785 and S2202, the e-referral system will display questions for BCN commercial and BCN Advantage members.

Note: Procedure code \*37799 will continue to require prior authorization. Although you won't be prompted to answer a series of questions when submitting prior authorization requests, you will have to complete the *Experimental and investigational services* questionnaire.

As is the case now, the e-referral system will either auto-approve or pend the request depending on your answers to the questions. For pended requests, you'll need to submit additional clinical documentation.

In an upcoming provider alert, we'll announce the date on which this change will occur.

### How to access the updated medical policy

To view the updated medical policy:

1. Go to [bcbsm.com/providers](https://bcbsm.com/providers).

2. Click *Resources* in the top navigation.
3. Click the *Search Medical Policies* button.
4. Enter *Treatment of varicose veins/venous insufficiency* in the Policy/Topic Keyword field.
5. In the search results, click the link to open the medical policy.

This policy includes requirements for endovenous ablation for the treatment of varicose veins.

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