

Updated: Two changes for the services managed by Blue Cross Behavioral Health

IMPORTANT: For the most updated information, see the provider alert titled [Blue Cross Behavioral Health to reinstate requirements; providers can submit authorization requests](#), published Jan. 9, 2024.

We're making two important changes related to the services that Blue Cross Behavioral HealthSM will manage for dates of service on or after Jan. 1, 2024.

These changes apply to behavioral health services (including autism treatment) for Blue Cross commercial, Medicare Plus BlueSM, BCN commercial and BCN AdvantageSM members.

We're extending approved authorizations for autism treatment

We're extending authorizations that have already been approved for autism treatment (applied behavior analysis) as follows:

- All existing authorizations will be extended through at least Feb. 29, 2024.
- Some authorizations will be extended beyond Feb. 29, 2024, depending on the date on which the member's most recent authorization approval will expire.

No action is required from providers.

IMPORTANT: Starting this week, we'll send letters to providers and members that indicate the date through which each authorization for autism treatment will be extended.

Until further notice, we're waiving requirements for dates of service on or after Jan. 1 for all behavioral health services

Until further notice, we're waiving requirements for prior authorization and concurrent reviews for dates of service on or after Jan. 1, 2024. This applies to the following services:

- Outpatient autism services (applied behavior analysis)
- Outpatient transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS)

Note: Outpatient TMS doesn't require authorization for Medicare Plus Blue members.

- Inpatient, residential or partial hospital admissions

Note: Medicare Plus Blue and BCN Advantage members don't have a residential mental health treatment benefit.

- Inpatient subacute detoxification

We'll publish provider alerts with updates on this, including the date on which prior authorization and concurrent review requirements will resume.



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Provider alert

Blue Cross commercial, Medicare Plus BlueSM,
BCN commercial and BCN AdvantageSM

Categories: Authorizations/referrals, Behavioral health

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Other important information

Be sure to verify each member's eligibility and benefits before providing services. Don't deny services to a member due to the inability to submit a prior authorization request.

As a reminder, we're currently not able to accept new prior authorization requests or concurrent review requests for existing authorizations. Look for provider alerts with updated information in these locations:

- On the Home page of our ereferrals.bcbsm.com website
- On our Provider Resources site, which you can access through our provider portal (availability.com*)

For additional information, see our [Dec. 15, 2023, provider alert](#).

[Subscribe](#) to Provider Alerts Weekly, a weekly email with a list of links to the previous week's provider alerts.

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