

Blue Cross Behavioral Health to reinstate requirements; providers can submit authorization requests

Read this alert for important information related to the services that Blue Cross Behavioral HealthSM manages for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan commercial, Medicare Plus Blue, Blue Care Network commercial and BCN Advantage members. This includes:

- Prior authorization and concurrent review requirements reinstated for dates of service on or after Jan. 15
- Submit requests starting Jan. 9
- Approved autism treatment authorizations still extended through at least Feb. 29, 2024

We're reinstating requirements for dates of service on or after Jan. 15, 2024, for all behavioral health services

We're reinstating requirements for prior authorization and concurrent reviews for dates of service on or after Jan. 15, 2024. Dates of service from Jan. 1 through Jan. 14 won't require authorization. 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

This is a follow up to a [Dec. 22, 2023, provider alert](#) in which we communicated that prior authorization and concurrent review requirements for these services were temporarily waived.

Submit requests to Blue Cross Behavioral Health starting Jan. 9

Starting Jan. 9, 2024, providers can submit requests for prior authorization and concurrent reviews to Blue Cross Behavioral Health:

- Through the provider portal
- By phone

This applies only to requests for dates of service on or after Jan. 15, 2024. Refer to the document [Blue Cross Behavioral Health: Frequently asked questions for providers for information](#) about how to submit.

This is a follow up to a [Dec. 15, 2023, provider alert](#) in which we communicated that providers should not submit requests to Blue Cross Behavioral Health.

We're still extending approved authorizations for autism treatment

We're still 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. We've been sending letters to providers and members that indicate the date through which each authorization for autism treatment will be extended.

IMPORTANT: For dates of service beyond the extension period, submit prior authorization requests to Blue Cross Behavioral Health as described in the document [Blue Cross Behavioral Health: Frequently asked questions for providers for information](#).

This is a follow up to a [Dec. 22, 2023, provider alert](#) in which we communicated that we were extending approved authorizations for autism treatment through at least Feb. 29, 2024.

Other important information

Be sure to verify each member's eligibility and benefits before providing services.

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