

## Changes to prior authorization requirements for select services managed by Blue Cross and BCN starting Sept. 28

On Sept. 28, 2025, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network are changing prior authorization requirements for some services for Medicare Plus Blue, BCN commercial and BCN Advantage members.

### Changes to prior authorization requirements and questionnaires

We're changing prior authorization requirements and questionnaires for select services as follows.

Note: We'll update the document titled [Preview questionnaires and medical necessity criteria](#) (previously titled *Authorization criteria and preview questionnaires*) on the [ereferrals.bcbsm.com](https://ereferrals.bcbsm.com) website to reflect questionnaire changes.

Service	Affected lines of business	What's changing
Ambulatory event monitor, implantable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medicare Plus Blue</li> <li>BCN commercial</li> <li>BCN Advantage</li> </ul>	The <i>Implantable ambulatory event monitors</i> questionnaire will no longer open for procedure code *33285. This procedure code will no longer require prior authorization.
Enteral Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BCN commercial</li> <li>BCN Advantage</li> </ul>	<p>Instead of answering a series of questions in the e-referral system, you'll be prompted to complete a questionnaire based on the line of business.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For BCN commercial, two questions will be revised in the <i>Enteral nutrition</i> questionnaire.</li> <li>For BCN Advantage, the <i>Enteral nutrition</i> questionnaire will be split into two questionnaires to align with Medicare guidelines as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Enteral Nutrition BCNA Standard Formula</i> questionnaire — opens for procedure codes B4150, B4152, B4158, B4159 and B4160.</li> <li><i>Enteral Nutrition BCNA Specialized Formula</i> questionnaire — opens for procedure codes B4149, B4153, B4154, B4155, B4157, B4161 and B4162.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Ethmoidectomy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medicare Plus Blue</li> <li>BCN commercial</li> <li>BCN Advantage</li> </ul>	The <i>Ethmoidectomy</i> questionnaire will no longer open for procedure codes *31253, *31254, *31255, *31257, *31259, *61580 or *61581. These procedure codes will no longer require prior authorization.

Service	Affected lines of business	What's changing
Facial and neck hair removal (University of Michigan members only)	BCN commercial	The <i>Facial and neck hair removal</i> questionnaire will no longer open for procedure codes *17380 or *17999 with diagnosis codes F64.0, F64.2, F64.8, F64.9, Z87.890. However, these codes will continue to require prior authorization.
Facial Feminization surgery and chondrolaryngoplasty (University of Michigan members only)	BCN commercial	The <i>Facial Feminization surgery and chondrolaryngoplasty</i> questionnaire will no longer open for procedure codes *15820, *15821, *15822, *15823, *21208, *30430, *30435 or *30450 for diagnosis codes F64.0, F64.2, F64.8, F64.9 or Z87.890. However, these codes will continue to require prior authorization.
Gastric stimulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medicare Plus Blue</li> <li>BCN commercial</li> <li>BCN Advantage</li> </ul>	In the <i>Gastric stimulation</i> questionnaire: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"N/A" will be removed as a possible response.</li> <li>The first question will be rephrased.</li> </ul>
Radiofrequency ablation (RFA), cardiac, trigger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medicare Plus Blue</li> <li>BCN commercial</li> <li>BCN Advantage</li> </ul>	The <i>Cardiac ablation</i> questionnaire will no longer open for procedure codes *93653, *93654 or *93656. These procedure codes will no longer require prior authorization.
Sinusotomy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medicare Plus Blue</li> <li>BCN commercial</li> <li>BCN Advantage</li> </ul>	The <i>Sinusotomy</i> questionnaire will no longer open for procedure code *31276. This procedure code will no longer require prior authorization.
Thyroidectomy, partial and total	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medicare Plus Blue</li> <li>BCN commercial</li> <li>BCN Advantage</li> </ul>	The <i>Thyroidectomy, partial</i> and <i>Thyroidectomy, total</i> questionnaires will no longer open for procedure codes *60210, *60212, *60220, *60225, *60240, *60252, *60254, *60260, *60270 or *60271. These procedure codes will no longer require prior authorization.

Service	Affected lines of business	What's changing
Various	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BCN commercial</li> <li>BCN Advantage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following procedure codes will no longer require prior authorization for BCN commercial or BCN Advantage: *93892, *94762, A0420, A0999, 57465, A9698, G0288, Q4186, A9507, A4641.</li> <li>The following procedure codes will no longer require prior authorization for BCN Advantage: Q4311, Q4312, Q4313, Q4314, Q4315, Q4316, Q4317, Q4318, Q4319, Q4320, Q4321, Q4322, Q4323, Q4324, Q4325, Q4326, Q4327, Q4328, Q4329, Q4330, Q4331, Q4332, Q4333, G0011, G0529, G0530, G0531, G9037, G9038.</li> <li>For procedure codes *15271, *15272, *15273, *15274, *15275, *15276, *15277, *15278 and *15777, Blue Cross and BCN will no longer accept requests for skin and tissue substitute application codes without a skin and tissue product code.  Note: If the product code isn't included in the request, you'll receive the following message: "This skin and tissue substitute application code cannot be submitted without a skin and tissue substitute product code. Please add the FDA approved skin substitute product code and resubmit."</li> </ul>

### Preview questionnaires and medical necessity criteria

For some of the above services, health care providers are prompted to complete questionnaires in the e-referral system. Refer to the [Preview questionnaires and medical necessity criteria](#) for:

- Links to preview questionnaires that show the questions you'll need to answer in the e-referral system so you can prepare your answers ahead of time
- Information about how to access medical necessity criteria and the criteria source for each service

As a reminder, we use the pertinent medical necessity criteria and your answers to the questionnaires in the e-referral system when making utilization management determinations on your prior authorization requests.

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