

## Medicare Plus Blue PPO Provider Manual update coming in January 2026

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan will update the [Medicare Plus Blue<sup>SM</sup> PPO Provider Manual](#) in January 2026.

Key updates include the following:

- **Prior authorization for SNF, LTAC and inpatient rehab**  
Starting Jan. 2, 2026, health care providers will need to submit prior authorization requests to WellSky®, an independent company, for dates of service on or after Jan. 5, 2026. This change will affect requests for stays at skilled nursing facilities, inpatient rehabilitation facilities and long-term acute care hospitals for Medicare Plus Blue and BCN Advantage members. See the “Prior authorization of SNF, LTAC, and inpatient rehabilitation stays” entry in the “Utilization management” section.
- **Prior authorization for home health care**  
Beginning in March 2026, home health care will require prior authorization. Health care providers will need to submit prior authorization requests to tango, an independent company, for dates of service on or after March 1, 2026.
- **Hearing benefits**  
Blue Cross has contracted with TruHearing®, an independent company that provides hearing services to certain Medicare Advantage plan members, to administer supplemental hearing services for Medicare Plus Blue plans that offer the benefit. Starting Jan. 1, 2026, health care providers must be contracted with TruHearing to provide supplemental hearing benefits. See the “Hearing, dental and vision coverage” entry in the “Benefits” section.

This alert serves as notice of these changes to the manual, according to the terms of the [Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Medicare Advantage PPO Provider Agreement](#). This agreement is available online at [bcbasm.com/providers/resources](https://bcbasm.com/providers/resources) under *Key forms and documents*.

Tango and WellSky® are independent companies that review member health care services for appropriateness and medical necessity on behalf of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network.

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