

Reminder: Submit prior authorization requests for sleep studies to Blue Cross or BCN through the e-referral system for most commercial members

Health care providers need to do the following for in-lab sleep studies and the implantation of hypoglossal nerve stimulation devices for most Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network commercial members:

- Submit prior authorization requests for most adult commercial members through the e-referral system.
- Submit plan notification for pediatric BCN commercial members through the e-referral system when the in-lab sleep study will be performed in the East or Southeast region. Plan notification alerts BCN about scheduled services and facilitates claims payment. Clinical review isn't required.

After submitting a prior authorization request, one of the following will happen within approximately five minutes:

- If all criteria are met, the request will be approved.
- If Blue Cross or BCN needs additional information to process the request or the case has been pended for medical review, that will be noted in the Case Communication field in the e-referral system.

Procedure codes that require prior authorization

For dates of service on or after Nov. 3, 2025, the following procedure codes require prior authorization or plan notification: *64582, *95805, *95807, *95808, *95810 and *95811.

To determine whether a procedure code requires prior authorization for a specific member and where to submit the prior authorization request, log in to our provider portal (availability.com**), click *Patient Registration*, click *Authorizations & Referrals*, click *Authorization Request* and enter the requested information. Availability Essentials™ will tell you whether you need to submit a prior authorization request for the member. For detailed instructions, see the document titled [Determining prior authorization requirements for members](#).

Note: If you need to submit a retroactive authorization request after Nov. 3 for a sleep study that occurred before Nov. 3, submit the retroactive request to Caelon Medical Benefits Management. Caelon will accept retroactive requests through Jan. 31, 2026.

Groups and members affected by this change

Blue Cross and BCN manage sleep studies for:

- Blue Cross commercial adult members
 - All fully insured groups, including MESSA
 - Most self-funded groups — see the exceptions below

- All members with individual coverage
- All BCN commercial members

Exceptions:

- Carelon Medical Benefits Management continues to manage prior authorizations for in-lab sleep studies for adult members who have commercial coverage through Chrysler, Delphi/Aptiv, General Motors or UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust. You no longer need to submit prior authorization requests for pediatric members.
- Members who have coverage through the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Federal Employee Program®, the State of Michigan and select Ascension Health groups don't require prior authorization for in-lab sleep studies.

Where to learn more

For more information about sleep studies managed by Blue Cross and BCN through the e-referral system, see:

- [Sleep Studies](#) page on **authorizations.bcbsm.com** — Includes information about sleep studies managed by Blue Cross and BCN and sleep studies managed by Carelon.
- [In-lab sleep studies managed by Blue Cross and BCN: Frequently asked questions for providers PDF](#)
- Training opportunities, which you can find by searching for *sleep* on our Provider Training site:
 - *Enhanced prior authorization process for sleep studies for commercial patients presentation* — This recorded webinar introduces the new process through the e-referral system.
 - *Enhanced prior authorization process for sleep studies for commercial patients mini module* — This mini module provides a step-by-step demonstration of the steps you need to take in the e-referral system.

Tip: If you need help accessing our Provider Training site, [here are detailed instructions](#).

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

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Carelon Medical Benefits Management is an independent company that contracts with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network to manage prior authorizations for select services