

Update: Changes to prior authorization requirements for select services managed by Blue Cross and BCN starting Feb. 1

We updated an earlier version of this communication to correct the information in the last row of the table. For dates of service on or after Feb. 1, 2026:

- Procedure code *87798 doesn't require prior authorization for BCN Advantage members. It continues to require prior authorization for BCN commercial members.
- Procedure codes M0237, M0238 and Q0237 no longer require prior authorization for BCN Advantage members. BCN commercial members don't require prior authorization for these procedure codes for any date of service.

Changes to prior authorization requirements and questionnaires

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

Service	Affected lines of business	What changed
Experimental and investigational services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCN commercial • BCN Advantage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We're retiring the <i>Experimental and investigational</i> questionnaire. • The procedure codes that are configured as experimental and investigational in our systems will continue to require prior authorization.
Breast elastography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCN commercial • BCN Advantage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you click <i>Yes</i> in response to this questionnaire, the <i>Experimental and investigational</i> questionnaire will no longer open. • Procedure codes *76981 and *76982 will continue to require prior authorization.
Endoscopic bypass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCN commercial • BCN Advantage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you click <i>No</i> in response to this questionnaire, the <i>Experimental and investigational</i> questionnaire will no longer open. • Procedure codes *43644 and *43645 will continue to require prior authorization.

Service	Affected lines of business	What changed
Endovascular intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medicare Plus Blue BCN Advantage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Endovascular intervention</i> questionnaire will no longer open for the following procedure codes: *37220, *37221, *37224, *37225, *37226, *37227, *37228, *37229, *37230 and *37231. These codes were retired by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services on Dec. 31, 2025. The <i>Endovascular intervention</i> questionnaire will open for the following procedure codes starting Feb. 1, 2026: *37254, *37256, *37258, *37260, *37263, *37265, *37267, *37269, *37271, *37273, *37275, *37277, *37280, *37282, *37284, *37286, *37288, *37290, *37292, *37294, *37296 and *37298. These procedure codes replace those that were retired on Dec. 31.
Various	BCN Advantage	Procedure codes *87798, M0237, M0238 and Q0237 will no longer require prior authorization.

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](#) on the authorizations.bcbsm.com website 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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