

Change to authorizations for SNF interrupted stays for Medicare Advantage members

On Jan. 5, 2026, WellSky® started managing prior authorizations for post-acute care, including stays at skilled nursing facilities.

Starting Feb. 6, 2026, WellSky changed how it handles authorizations for SNF interrupted stays. When members who receive skilled services leave a SNF for the emergency department for either an observation stay or an acute-care hospital stay and then return to the same SNF, here's what happens:

Before Feb. 6, 2026	On or after Feb. 6, 2026
<p>If the member returns to the same SNF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the day of discharge (before midnight), WellSky uses the original prior authorization number. One or more days after the discharge date, WellSky creates a new authorization number. 	<p>If the member returns to the same SNF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before two midnights have passed, WellSky uses the original prior authorization number. After two or more midnights have passed, WellSky creates a new prior authorization number.

The process for submitting claims for SNF interrupted stays hasn't changed:

- You still need to submit only one claim for both stays.
- Submitting authorization numbers on Medicare Plus Blue and BCN Advantage claims for post-acute care stays remains **optional**. If you choose to include an authorization number on the claim, include the prior authorization number for the initial SNF stay.

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

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.