

Release schedule for EviCore category assignments and practitioner performance summaries for PTs and OTs

EviCore by Evernorth® assigns physical and occupational therapists to categories that affect the information they need to supply when submitting prior authorization requests. PTs and OTs can view their category assignments through the practitioner performance summary.

When EviCore releases category assignments

EviCore releases practitioner performance summaries with updated categories twice a year. The category assignment from the report is effective two months following the release of the report.

Report is released	Category assignment is effective
First business day of February	First business day of April
First business day of August	First business day of October

How to view practitioner performance summaries

As a reminder, EviCore no longer sends written notification of physical therapy utilization management category changes through postal mail. Instead, you can view practitioner performance summaries, which include your category assignment, through the EviCore provider portal. To do this:

1. Log in to Blue Cross and BCN's provider portal (availity.com).
2. Click *Payer Spaces* in the menu bar and then click the BCBSM and BCN logo.
3. Click the *eviCore Provider Portal* tile in the Applications tab.
4. In the EviCore provider portal, select *Practitioner Performance Summary* from the main menu.
5. Select the health plan (*Blue Care Network*) and a provider. Only providers you've added to your EviCore web user account are available to select.
6. Click the *UM Category* tab.

The EviCore provider portal displays the results of the most recent claims analysis and the key performance benchmarks EviCore used to determine your category.

How to appeal a category B assignment

If you believe there were circumstances that adversely affected your category assignment, you can request reconsideration within 15 days from the date on which EviCore published the new practitioner performance summary.

Submit the request for category reconsideration through the Practitioner Performance Summary area of the EviCore provider portal.

Background

EviCore assigns physical and occupational therapists to a category based on physical therapy visits per episode. They do this by retroactively reviewing physical therapy claims from a one-year period. The categories are:

- **Category A:** When submitting prior authorization requests, providers need to submit limited information about the patient's condition. EviCore approves the request for a block of visits over an extended duration. The provider determines the number of visits that are medically necessary within the approved time period.
- **Category B:** When submitting prior authorization requests, providers need to submit additional information, which varies based on the patient's age and condition and the type of request (initial or continuing). The number of visits EviCore approves varies based on the patient's condition, severity, complexity and response to treatment received.

Important: For hospitals or outpatient therapy centers that bill both physical and occupational therapy using the same NPI, the assigned category establishes the review requirements for both physical and occupational therapists. This is true even though the category is based only on physical therapy claims and occupational therapists aren't assigned to a category.

Additional information

To learn more about category assignments and practitioner performance summaries, see the following documents:

- [Musculoskeletal Specialized Therapy Program: Physical Therapy Practitioner Performance Summary and Provider Category FAQs*](#)
- [Practitioner Performance Summary and Utilization Management Categories*](#)

The above documents are available on the [PT, OT, ST and Physical Medicine Services](#) page on authorizations.bcbsm.com.

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