

Referrals to home healthcare for Medicare Advantage members: Grace period extended through Dec. 31 for acute care providers

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Blue Care Network and tango are extending the grace period during which acute care providers don't need to submit referrals to tango for home healthcare services. With the extension, home healthcare providers can continue to submit referral requests directly to tango through Dec. 31, 2026.

This extension will allow additional time for tango, Blue Cross and BCN to refine the referral process, including making the process easier for facilities, improving visibility into referrals and supporting timely placement. When completed, acute care providers will see the following benefits:

- Tango's network of contracted home health agencies will be available within the WellSky[®] CarePort discharge planning tool, which will make it easier for referring facilities to identify and select an appropriate contracted agency.
- When a referral is closed and sent to tango, CarePort will automatically generate referral documentation. Tango will then use the information from the referral to create the authorization for the selected home health agency, reducing the need for any additional manual steps.
- Tango will work directly with CarePort users to monitor referral activity and address trends or opportunities identified through referral patterns.

Note: Tango is developing a similar process to support Epic and Ensocare users. We'll share additional details as system capabilities and enhancements are defined.

We appreciate your patience as we work to make the referral process as seamless as possible. If your organization has questions about the referral process, email the tango Provider Relations team at providerrelations@tangocare.com.

Notes:

- In a May 28, 2026, provider alert, we reported that the grace period would end for acute care providers on Sept. 30, 2026.
- As a reminder, tango coordinates referrals and manages prior authorizations for Medicare Plus BlueSM and BCN AdvantageSM members for home health episodes of care that start on or after March 1, 2026.

For additional information about home healthcare requirements for Medicare Advantage members, see the:



Blue Cross
Blue Shield
Blue Care Network
of Michigan

Nonprofit corporations and independent licensees
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Provider alert

Medicare Plus BlueSM and BCN AdvantageSM

Category: Authorizations/referrals

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- [Home Health Care](#) page on **authorizations.bcbsm.com**
- [Home health referring provider](#) page on the *tango and WellSky Provider Resource Center for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network**

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