

Changes to prior authorization requirements for select services managed by Blue Cross and BCN starting Oct. 25

Starting Oct. 25, 2026, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network are changing prior authorization requirements and adding, updating or removing questionnaires for select services as shown below.

We're making these changes to ensure we have the information needed to process prior authorization requests as quickly as possible and minimize the need for us to reach out to your office staff.

Service	Affected lines of business	What will change
Breast elastography	- BCN commercial - BCN Advantage	We'll retire the <i>Breast elastography</i> questionnaire. Procedure codes *76981 and *76982 will continue to require prior authorization. The <i>Experimental and investigational services</i> questionnaire will open for these procedure codes for breast-related diagnoses.
Septoplasty	- Medicare Plus Blue - BCN Advantage	We'll add a <i>Septoplasty MA</i> questionnaire for Medicare Plus Blue and BCN Advantage members based on the <i>Local Coverage Determination for Cosmetic and Reconstructive Surgery (L39051)</i>. The current <i>Septoplasty</i> questionnaire will continue to open for BCN commercial members.

Preview questionnaires and medical necessity criteria

For some of the above services, healthcare providers are prompted to complete questionnaires in the e-referral system. Refer to the [Preview questionnaires and medical necessity criteria](#) document 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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Provider alert

Medicare Plus BlueSM, BCN commercial and BCN AdvantageSM

Category: Authorizations/referrals

Date posted: Oct. 20, 2026

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