

Medicare Prior Authorization List

Effective January 1, 2022



Wellcare By Allwell (HMO and HMO SNP) requires prior authorization as a condition of payment for many services. This notice contains information regarding prior authorization requirements and is applicable to all Medicare products offered by Wellcare.

Wellcare is committed to delivering cost effective quality care to members. This effort requires us to ensure that our members receive only treatment that is medically necessary according to current standards of practice. Prior authorization is a process initiated by the ordering physician in which we verify the medical necessity of a treatment in advance using independent objective medical criteria and/or in-network utilization, where applicable.

It is the ordering/prescribing provider's responsibility to determine which specific codes require prior authorization.

Please note: Prior authorization is subject to covered benefit review and is not a guarantee of payment.

Effective January 1, 2022, Prior Authorization will be required for the following services:

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Please verify eligibility and benefits prior to rendering services for all members. Payment, regardless of authorization, is contingent on the member's eligibility at the time service is rendered. NON-PAR PROVIDERS AND FACILITIES REQUIRE AUTHORIZATION FOR ALL HMO SERVICES EXCEPT WHERE INDICATED.

For complete CPT/HCPCS code listing, please visit the [Medicare Prior Authorization Tool](#).

Service Category	Services/Procedures	Comments
Acupuncture	An alternate form of medicine in which thin needles are inserted into the body. Medicare doesn't cover acupuncture (including dry needling) for any condition other than chronic low back pain. Limit to 20 visits.	<p>Prior Auth Required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arizona Complete Health • Oregon Health Net Medicare Advantage • MHS Indiana • Sunflower • Louisiana Healthcare Connections • Wellcare By Allwell • Medicare Advantage from MHS Health Wisconsin • Western Sky Community Care • Ascension Complete <p>Contracted Providers: Visit ashlink.com</p> <p>Non-Contracted providers: Call (800) 972-4226</p>
Ambulance Nonemergent Fixed Wing	Nonemergent fixed wing ambulance transfers	Requires prior authorization before transport
Behavioral Health Services	Day Treatment Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT) Inpatient Psychiatric Intensive Outpatient Therapy Neuropsychological Testing Partial hospitalization Psychological Testing Substance Use Disorder Treatment/Rehabilitation Therapeutic Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) Treatment	Added: Therapeutic repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation treatment
Bronchial Thermoplasty	Outpatient procedure for the treatment of asthma	

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Service Category	Services/Procedures	Comments
Chiropractor Services	Medicare coverage for chiropractic services extends only to treatment by means of manual manipulation of the spine to correct a subluxation, provided such treatment is reasonable and medically necessary	Prior Auth Required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arizona Complete Health • Oregon Health Net • Allwell from Louisiana Healthcare Connections Contracted Providers: Visit ashlink.com Non-Contracted providers: Call (800) 972-4226
Clinical Trials: Notification Only	A clinical trial is one type of clinical research that follows a pre-defined plan or protocol	
Cochlear Implants & Surgery	Provides direct electrical stimulation to the auditory nerve, bypassing the usual transducer cells that are absent or nonfunctional in deaf cochlea	
Cosmetic Procedures/ Dermatology	Includes any surgical procedure directed at improving appearance, except when required for the prompt (i.e., as soon as medically feasible) repair of accidental injury or for the improvement of the functioning of a malformed body member Including, but not limited to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemical exfoliation, electrolysis • Dermabrasion/chemical peel • Laser treatment • Skin injections and implants 	
Drug Testing	Quantitative tests for drugs of abuse	
Durable Medical Equipment (DME)	Ambulatory Infusion Pumps BIPAP Bone Growth Stimulator Continuous Glucose Monitor Hospital Bed/Mattress Implantable Neurostimulator Lift Devices including Hoyer Lymphedema Pumps and Supplies Oxygen Concentrators TENS Units Vagus Nerve Stimulator Ventilators Wheelchairs, Custom & Power	

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Enhanced External Counterpulsation (EECP)	The noninvasive outpatient treatment for patients with coronary artery disease (CAD)	
Experimental/Investigational Services	Any item or service potentially considered investigational or experimental must be authorized in advance	
Gender Reassignment	General term to describe a surgery or surgeries that affirm a person's gender identity	
Genetic Counseling and Testing	Genetic testing is a type of medical test that identifies changes in chromosomes, genes, or proteins	
Home Health Services	Home Health Aide Occupational Therapy Physical Therapy Skilled Nursing Visits Social Work Visits Speech Therapy	
Hospice: Notification only	Home or Inpatient	
Hospital Admission	Acute Inpatient Hospital Inpatient Rehabilitation Hospital Long Term Acute Care Hospital (LTAC) Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF)	
Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy	Includes HBO therapy administered in a chamber	
Infertility	Drug Therapy, Testing, Treatment	
Neuropsychological Testing	Evaluations for members with a history of psychological, neurologic or medical disorders known to impact cognitive or neurobehavioral functioning	
Nutritional Supplements and/or services	Formula administered via a enteral feeding tube	
Observation Stay		Prior Authorization required if >48 hours
Orthotics/Prosthetics	Prosthetic devices needed to replace a body part or function Limited coverage options for orthotic shoes and devices, including artificial limbs and eyes as well as braces for arms, legs, back, or neck, penile prosthetics	
Outpatient Therapy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occupational Therapy Physical Therapy Speech-Language Therapy 	Therapeutic treatment: as a remedial treatment of mental or bodily disorder or an agency (as treatment) designed or serving to bring about rehabilitation or social adjustment	Requires authorization after 12 combined visits

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Pain Management	Epidural Injections Facet Injections Median Branch Block Radio Frequency Ablation Sacroiliac joint injection (SI) Trigger Point	
Part B Drugs	Added for Step Therapy: Lutetium LU 177 dotatate therapeutic 1 MCI Injection darbepoetin alfa, 1 microgram (non-ESRD use) Injection epoetin alfa, (for non-ESRD use), 1000 units Injection cemiplimab-RWLC 1 mg Injection lurbinectedin 0.1 mg Injection pembrolizumab 1 mg Injection nivolumab 1 mg Injection polatuzumab vedotin-PIIQ 1 mg Injection ado-trastuzumab EMT 1 mg Injection daratumumab, 10 mg and hyaluronidase-fihj Injection daratumumab, 10 mg and hyaluronidase-fihj Injection epoetin alfa, 100 units (for ESRD on dialysis) Injection darbepoetin alfa, 1 microgram (for ESRD on dialysis) Lisocabtagene maraleucel per therapeutic dose Injection rituximab-arrx biosimilar 10 mg	See attached Appendix A for complete list
Radiation Therapy	Intensity modulated radiotherapy (IMRT) Neutron beam therapy Proton beam therapy Stereotactic radiotherapy	
Radiology	MRI, MRA, PET Scan, CT, Cardiac Imaging	All Health Plans Excluding Medicare Advantage from MHS Health Wisconsin visit www.radmd.com
Sleep Studies	Hospital/Facility Sleep Study	
Surgeries, regardless of place of service	Abortion Bariatric Surgery Blepharoplasty Breast Augmentation (except following mastectomy) Breast Reduction Capsule Endoscopy Chondrocyte Implants Cochlear Implant Facial Osteotomy Hysterectomy Joint Replacements Mastectomy for Gynecomastia	

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Surgeries, regardless of place of service continued	Temporomandibular Joint Surgery Otoplasty Reconstructive and Plastic Surgery Rhinoplasty Sacral Nerve Neuromodulation Scar Revision Septoplasty Spinal Surgeries including Fusion, Stabilization, Discectomy Transcatheter implantation of wireless pulmonary artery pressure sensor Uvulopalatopharyngoplasty/ Uvulopharyngoplasty Veins (ablation, ligation, stripping, sclerotherapy) X-Stop: Spinal Surgery	
Transplants	All transplant evaluations and procedures, including, but not limited to, evaluation, transplant consult visits, HLA typing, donor search and transplant procedure	