

Provider Notification

Upcoming Prior Authorization Requirements for Musculoskeletal (MSK) Surgical Quality and Spine Services

We would like to provide an important update regarding the implementation timeline for the upcoming Prior Authorization Program for Musculoskeletal (MSK) Surgical Quality and Spine Services.

Updated Implementation Dates:

Go-Live Date: November 1st, 2026

Soft Launch: October 1st, 2026

Beginning November 1st, providers may be required to obtain prior authorization for designated MSK and Spine procedures performed in both inpatient and outpatient settings. Providers can begin submitting authorization requests for a date of service on or after 11/1/2026 as soon as 10/01/2026. The program is being implemented to support evidence-based care, promote appropriate utilization of services, and ensure alignment with current clinical guidelines and medical policy requirements.

Clinical categories anticipated to be included in the program may include, but are not limited to:

- Spine Fusion and Instrumentation Procedures
- Cervical and Lumbar Decompression Procedures
- Disc Replacement Procedures
- Sacroiliac Joint Fusion
- Vertebroplasty and Kyphoplasty
- Neurostimulator and Implantable Pain Management Procedures
- Spinal Deformity and Osteotomy Procedures
- Total Joint Arthroplasty and Revision Arthroplasty
- Arthroscopic Shoulder, Knee, and Hip Procedures
- Ligament Reconstruction Procedures
- Osteochondral Repair and Meniscal Transplant Procedures
- Select Implantable Devices and Emerging Technology Services

Additional information regarding effective dates, impacted CPT/HCPCS codes, clinical guidelines, submission requirements, and provider education opportunities will be communicated prior to program implementation.

Providers are encouraged to monitor future communications for program updates and implementation details. Training materials, clinical criteria, and operational guidance will be made available in advance of the effective date to support a smooth transition.

Please note there is a training Monday August 31 9:00-10:00 am for providers.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/jc/87150378620>

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to delivering high-quality, evidence-based care to our members.