

PRIOR AUTHORIZATIONS

To ease the administrative burden faced by many hospitals, Molina has implemented the following additional changes through the end of **May 2020**, unless otherwise specified:

Authorizations Suspended for COVID-related Inpatient Stays (all Molina programs)

Effective immediately, Molina will suspend clinical review for authorization and require “notification only” for members admitted to acute care facilities with a diagnosis of actual or suspected COVID-19 diagnosis only. This would not apply to any other type of admission or diagnosis.

While Molina will not require authorization and clinical information for COVID-19 admissions, hospitals should provide notification of the admission timely (within 3 calendar days). Please also include if the member tested positive for COVID-19 in the notification. Please send notification to 800-594-7404.

Notification is needed to assist in following patients for transitions of care after discharge.

Authorization Suspended for Initial Transfers to Skilled Nursing Facilities

Effective immediately, Molina will allow initial transfer from the hospital to a Skilled Nursing Facility with “notification only.” This would not apply to transfers to Long Term Acute Care (LTAC) facilities, which will continue to require pre-authorization. Molina will conduct continued stay reviews directly with the Skilled Nursing Facility.

Extension of Prior Authorizations

Molina is extending the “end” date of all approved prior authorizations for elective services to September 1, 2020. No action is required on the provider’s part. Therefore, if you have patients who are not able to get their PT/OT/ST, imaging or elective surgery appointments, J code infusion/injections, they may reschedule up to September 1, 2020. This includes any approved authorizations from Evicore, VSP, or Skygen.

Transfers between Hospitals

Molina immediately implemented the MDHHS policy for “no prior authorization requirement” for transfers between hospitals.

Please send notice via fax to our Utilization Management department at 800-594-7404. For more information please see the MDHHS bulletin here:

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/2025-Hospital-P_685053_7.pdf

Observation Stays

Molina does not require authorization for observation stays.

Continued Stays

Molina has extended its continued stay reviews to no less than 10-day intervals from the former 7-day intervals. Through its continued stay review, Molina can assist with discharge planning to make sure Molina members have the care they need after they leave the hospital.

Skilled Nursing Facilities Requesting Temporary Higher Level of Care

For facilities requesting higher level of care for long term care residents due to COVID-19, a separate authorization for higher level of care is required. The member must be experiencing symptoms and treatment for COVID-19 to qualify for higher level of care. These cases will be reviewed every 3-5 days.

Transitions of Care (TOC)

Molina has suspended proactive outreach to both members and hospital discharge planning staff to reduce the administrative burden for hospital employees. Molina TOC team members are available to assist with our members discharge needs. Please contact us at 888-898-7969 and follow the prompts to reach authorizations/admissions. Molina will continue to contact members after hospital discharge to assist with their needs. It is important for Molina to continue to receive the discharge plan for Medicare members in order to effectively follow up after hospitalization.

Prior Authorization for DME

Molina has relaxed authorization on select items, including those related to top respiratory illness, particularly those related to COVID-19 which do not require an authorization. Please see the MDHHS bulletin: https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/2022-DME-P_684945_7.pdf