

UnitedHealthcare will issue a press release today about reduced prior authorization requirements and will post the following updates to UHCprovider.com:

Reduced Prior Authorization Requirements

We're committed to helping people access health care to the fullest extent possible as we come together to address this national emergency. To advance these efforts, UnitedHealthcare continues to adopt measures that will reduce administrative burden for physicians and facilities to help members more easily access the care they need under their benefit plan during this challenging time. The following provisions are effective March 24, 2020:

- *Suspension of prior authorization requirements to a post-acute care setting through May 31, 2020. Details:*
 - *Waiving prior authorization for admissions to: long-term care acute facilities (LTAC), acute inpatient rehabilitation (AIR), and skilled nursing facilities (SNF).*
 - *Consistent with existing policy, the admitting provider must notify us within 48 hours of transfer and penalties still apply.*
 - *Length of stay reviews still apply, including denials for days that exceed approved length.*
 - *Discharges to home health will not require prior authorization.*
 - *Prior authorization is not required for COVID-19 testing and COVID-19 testing-related visits.*
- *Suspension of prior authorization requirements when a member transfers to a new provider through May 31, 2020. Details:*
 - *Providers are not required to submit a new prior authorization when a member moves to a different yet similar site of care for the same service (e.g., hospital transfers or practice transfers).*
 - *Consistent with existing policy, the admitting provider must notify us within 48 hours of transfer so that the existing authorization can be transferred. Penalties still apply.*

And, we may temporarily suspend or relax additional policies as needed in regions where inpatient capacity is most compromised and most at risk. Please watch for updates on UHCprovider.com.

Systems are being updated to reflect these changes. We are also developing a FAQ with additional information, including details about states that may reduce more requirements than these national guidelines. Please check back often for the latest information.

As a reminder, if you receive questions from a provider regarding COVID-19, updates to our policies, etc., please refer them to UHCprovider.com. This site serves as our external source of truth and has the most up-to-date information surrounding our efforts. When there are updates to share, they will be posted promptly to that site.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment during this time.