

BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association.

# **AUTHORIZATIONS**

#### DISCLAIMER

The information included is general and in no event should be deemed as a promise or guarantee of payment. We do not assume and hereby disclaim any liability for loss caused by errors or omissions in preparation and editing of this publication.

#### AGENDA

- Overview of Authorizations
- Process of Authorizations
- Authorization Vendors
- Resources

## **AUTHORIZATIONS OVERVIEW**



#### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT AUTHORIZATIONS

Authorizations are used to determine whether a service is medically necessary.

Authorization requirements can vary per plan and network.

Authorizations do not guarantee payment.

#### **COMMON SERVICES THAT REQUIRE AUTHORIZATION**

Elective inpatient services (including maternity)	Skilled nursing facility admission			Home health and hospice		Durable medical equipment (DME)*				
Mental hea substance		High tech	ı irr	naging**		Certain m under th ber		nedical		

\* DME dollar thresholds vary per plan but are typically \$500 or \$1,000. The threshold amounts can be lower than \$500

\*\* These services are typically handled by Evolent.

#### **GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORIZATIONS**



Members must have active coverage at the time of request.

#### **MAIN STEPS IN THE AUTHORIZATION PROCESS**

Verify the member's benefits and provider network.

If authorization is required, initiate the request.

Receive a decision (Approval or denial).

#### **REQUIRED INFORMATION FOR AUTHORIZATIONS**

#### Location Contact Service Details Clinicals Patient Details Details Information **N**ame **CPT** or HCPCS codes Phone number Length of issue **G**Facility Fax number **D**ID number Diagnosis codes – Name Attempted treatment Date of service **Conservative** Date of birth -Address Email medications – Tax ID or NPI □Studies (i.e., labs, Rendering imaging) – Name -Address -Tax ID or NPI

### **PROCESS FOR AUTHORIZATIONS**



#### **NEW PROCESS COMING SOON**

- Coming soon, we will implement a new process for requesting an authorization.
- My Insurance Manager will route you to a new web-based application, powered by Cohere Health, to enhance the efficiency of prior authorization decisions.
- Benefits of the new process include:
  - Accelerates and expands real-time approvals.
  - More seamless provider experience.
  - Decreases administrative efforts.
- The authorizations process for our third-party vendors will remain the same. This includes:
  - HealthHelp
  - Evolent
  - Avalon Healthcare Solutions
  - MBMNow
- All clinical decisions are made by BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina and BlueChoice<sup>®</sup> HealthPlan.

#### HOW TO GET AN AUTHORIZATION

- There is a single sign-on through My Insurance Manager<sup>™</sup>.
- Under **Patient Care**, select **Pre**certification/Referral.

Health	
<ul> <li>Authorization Extension</li> <li>Authorization Status</li> <li>Claims Status</li> <li>Eligibility and Benefits</li> <li>Institutional Claim Entry</li> <li>Other Health Insurance</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Patient Directory</li> <li>Pre-Certification/Referral</li> <li>Superbill Maintenance</li> <li>Pre-Service Review for Out-of-Area Members</li> <li>Professional Claim Entry</li> <li>Verify Primary Care Physician</li> </ul>
Dental	
Claims Status	Patient Directory
Dental Claim Entry	Superbill Maintenance
Eligibility and Benefits	Pre-Treatment Estimate Entry
• Other Dental Insurance	Pre-Treatment Estimate Status

- When you reach the landing page of the new platform, you will see a full listing of authorizations under your tax identification number (TIN).
- The authorizations can be filtered by:
  - All
  - Upcoming
  - Pending review
  - Approved
  - Denied
  - Draft
  - Withdrawn
  - Completed
- You can also search for a specific patient or authorization.
- To start a new request, select **Start auth request**.

		South C	Carolina p	owered by Cohere Healt	th	Support 🗸 🛛 My account 🗸
Filter by user	٩ ٩ ٩	Search (Patient name, Me	mber ID, Auth II	)		Start auth request
Health plan	Sort by	: Most recent 🗸				
All     BCBS South Carolina	Doe	, John		DOB 01/26/1965	Member ID 10119152022	Health plan BCBS South Carolina
O Humana	cر ا	Services		Procedure codes	Submission date	Dates of service
Status		Physical Therapy, Spee	ech Therapy	97110, 97112, 92507	05/15/2024 3:45 PM	06/15/2024 - 09/30/2024
<ul> <li>All (316)</li> </ul>	0	Approved Authorization #NPOA6	057 • Trackics +			Start continuation
O Upcoming (116)		Authorization #NPOA6	057 • Hacking +	INPOA0057		
O Pending review (2)						
O Approved (22)	Doe	, John		DOB 01/26/1965	Member ID 10119152022	Health plan BCBS South Carolina
O Denied (7)						
O Draft (2)	S)	Services Myocardial Perfusion In		Procedure codes 78451, 78452, 93015	Submission date 05/15/2024 3:45 PM	Dates of service 06/15/2024 – 09/30/2024
O Withdrawn (95)		Single Photon Emissior Tomography (MPI-SPE				
Completed (200)	C	Approved Authorization #NPOA6	057 • Tracking #	INPOA6057		Ly Start continuation
	Doe	, John		DOB 01/26/1965	Member ID 10119152022	Health plan BCBS South Carolina
	থ	Service Physical Therapy	Procedure code 97110	25 S -	ubmission dote -	Dates of service 12/01/2022 - 03/01/2023
		Draft				Delete Continue ->
	Ŧ	Tracking #AJSD3781				
		, Jane		DOB 01/26/1965	Member ID 10119152022	Health plan BCBS South Carolina

- Select whether the service is outpatient or inpatient.
- Include the diagnosis and procedure code(s).
- Select *Continue*.

	Tell us about your request	
Request details		
Outpatient O Inpatient		
C Start date 06/01/2024		
Diagnosis codes		
Primary diagnosis code M48.06		٩
Search for secondary diagnosis codes (option	al)	٩
Procedure codes		
CPT/HCPCS codes 63047 ×		٩

- Enter the provider details to include:
  - Ordering provider.
  - Performing or attending provider.
  - Performing facility or agency.
- There is a TIN search feature to make the process easier.
- Select *Continue*.

Providers				
Care setting				
Outpatient O Inpatient				
Place of service 🗸				
Ordering provider				
Search for an ordering provider by NPI, TIN, or name	Q	TIN	Q	Address
+ Bailey, Christopher Eric MD				
Performing or attending provider				
Performing is the same as the ordering				
Search for a performing or attending provider by NPI, TIN, or name	Q	TIN	Q	Address
+ Bailey, Christopher Eric MD				
Performing facility or agency				
Search for a performing facility or agency by NPI, TIN, or name	Q	TIN	Q	Address
+ 1ST START HEALTHCARE SERVICES				
ave and exit				

- On this screen, the top portion will tell you which codes you requested require authorization.
- The bottom portion will tell you which codes do not require authorization.
- There's an option to expedite the request if it's an urgent matter.
- Select *Continue*.

Start date 04/30/2024	- End date	
04/30/2024	mm/dd/yyyy	
Physical Therapy (PT)		
Number of visits		
97110 Therapeutic procedure, 1 or m	nore areas, each 15 minutes; therapeutic exercises to develop strength and endurance,	
Add a procedure code		
Total Knee Arthroplasty (TKA)		
27447 Units	Arthroplasty, knee, condyle and plateau; medial AND lateral compartments with or without patella	resurfacing (total knee 📋 Remove
Add a procedure code	arthroplasty)	-
Add a procedure code		
•		
Doesn't require authorization in me 93798	ost cases	👱 Download PDF 🗸 🗸

- Upload all relevant clinical documentation for review.
- You will have the option to review the uploaded items or remove them.
- Select *Continue*.

< Back	Add attachments			$\square$
Choose files to Please add clinical Add files	a upload documentation to support this authorization and accelerate the review.			
Clinical Note.pdf Uploaded on 05/08/	1023 at 12:00:07 PM (EDT) by Brandon Miller	0	Ŧ	

- Review all the relevant information.
- Select *Submit services*.

Back	Review services before submitting	
This request of Duplicate sul	rapy (PT), Total Knee Arthroplasty (TKA) duplicates an existing one bmissions may be voided. The care setting (outpatient or inpatient), performing provider (if and facility match an existing request, including overlap in procedure codes and service	1 evidence-based
<ol> <li>dates.</li> <li>You can choor assistance at</li> </ol>	ose to withdraw the existing request, change details to avoid duplication, or call Cohere for t (833) 283–0033.	suggestion to improve your request: Expedited → Not expedited The coverage and/or services on this
Tracking #WH	KGB4665 i Delete	request do not meet the requirements for an expedited request.
Details	🖍 Edi	t
rimary diagnosis	M25.561 - Pain in right knee	
econdary diagnosis		
Care setting	Outpatient	
lace of service	Ambulatory Suraical Center	
Save and exit	Ambulatory Suraical Center	Submit se

• After submitting the request, you will receive a faxed notification confirming the receipt of your service request.



For answers to questions regarding the Cohere systems and available resources please go online to https://coherehealth.zendesk.com or https://coherehealth.com/resources

- You will be notified once the authorization is approved.
  - Portal notification
  - Faxed notification
- To view additional details, select View service summary inside the portal.

South Carolina powe	ered by Cohere Health		_	
Your request has been	approved			
racking #: NPOA6057 ates of service: 06/01/2024 – 09/30/2024 ello <user's name="">,</user's>	powered by Cohere Health		nished processing your se	ervice request
nank you for submitting a service request witl viewed your request and it has been approv ecision (including the authorization number) i	available when using the Cohe	out on timesaving ben reNext:® web portal to	s of your request please go anline to <b>next.coh</b> effts, including immediate auth decisions and manage preauthorizations. ess for all users at your practice organization.	transparent in-app clinical guidelines only
View service sum	Final Determination:	Approved	Auth #: <b>NPOA6057</b>	Tracking #: NPOA6057
	Patient: John Doe		Patient DOB: <b>01/26/19</b>	265
	CPT/HCPCS code: 6	3047		
	Units (If applicable): 1			
	Dates of service: <b>06</b> /	01/2024 – 09	2/30/2024	
	Care Manual. Therefore, Cohere Hea	Ith will process all such	beech therapy are not considered "urgent" se requests according to standard timeframes. I available resources please go online to th.com/resources	rvices as defined in the Medicare Managed

- The *service summary* will outline the requested authorization to include:
  - Diagnosis and procedure code(s).
  - Place of service.
  - Ordering provider.
  - Performing or attending provider.
  - Performing facility or agency.
  - Dates of service.



 The *patient summary* will outline the same details as the service summary but will give you the option to view the clinical documentation that was provided.

Back	Pc	atient summary	Start auth request
DUCK	FC.	and a summary	Start duti request
Doe, John Member ID 10119152022	৩1 Spinal Fusion and	Decompression	÷ ^
Sex Male	Approved Authorization #NPOA6	057 • Tracking #NPOA6057	
DOB 01/26/1965	Details		🖍 Edit
59	Primary diagnosis	M48.06 - Spinal stenosis, lumbar region without neurogenic claudicat	tion
Address 420 Harvard St. #301 Brookline, MA	Secondary diagnosis Care setting	 Outpatient	
Phone	Place of service	Ambulatory Surgical Center	
(617) 283-4909	Ordering provider	Bailey, Christopher Eric MD / NPI - 1861781510 View info	
Preferred written langauge English	Performing or attending provider	Bailey, Christopher Eric MD / NPI - 1861781510 View info	
PCP grouper ID	Performing facility or agency	Peachtree Orthopaedic Surgery Center / NPI - 1902861941 View info	
918401720	Dates of service	06/01/2024 - 09/30/2024	
Plan	Expedited	No	
BCBS South Carolina	Spinal Fusion and Decompre	ession	
Commercial	Code Status	Description	
Plan type HMO	63047 1 unit approved	Laminectomy, facetectomy and foraminotomy (unilateral or bilateral with decon cauda equina and/or nerve root(s), [eg, spinal or lateral recess stenosis]), single	
Plan year 04/24/2024 - 04/24/2025	Attachments (1)		<i>∥</i> ° Edit
	DoeJohn_ClinicalNote.pdf Uploaded on 05/01/2024 02:39:51	PM (EST) by Connor Felck	• <u>+</u>
	Show clinical assessment		
			Withdraw

# **AUTHORIZATION VENDORS**



#### THIRD-PARTY VENDORS THAT MANAGE SELECT AUTHORIZATIONS

- HealthHelp
- Evolent
- Avalon Healthcare Solutions
- Specialty Pharmacy Manager (MBMNow)
- Companion Benefit Alternatives (CBA)

Note: These are independent organizations that offer utilization management on behalf of BlueCross and BlueChoice.

#### HEALTHHELP

- Manages authorizations for select procedures related to:
  - Musculoskeletal (MSK)
    - Procedures not currently reviewed by Evolent.
  - Cardiology
  - Surgical
  - Sleep studies
- Only applies to our Exchange plans with group numbers starting with 61, 62 and 65
- To request an authorization:
  - Use: My Insurance Manager<sup>sm</sup>
  - Call: 833-715-2255
  - Fax: 844-470-2666



#### **EVOLENT**

- Manages the following types of authorization for most plans:
  - Radiation oncology
  - Advanced radiology
  - Musculoskeletal care (MSK)
- To request an authorization:
  - Use: My Insurance Manager or visit <u>www.RadMD.com</u>
  - Call: 866-500-7664 for BlueCross members
  - Call: 888-642-9181 for BlueChoice<sup>®</sup> members



#### **AVALON HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS**

- Manages authorizations for lab services in the following settings:
  - Office
  - Outpatient facility
  - Independent laboratory
- To request an authorization:
  - My Insurance Manager
    - Use the Prior Authorization System (PAS)
  - Call: 844-227-5769
  - Fax: 813-751-3760
    - Fax form located on <u>www.SouthCarolinaBlues.com</u>:
      - Providers>Policies and Authorizations>Prior Authorization>Laboratory Medical Benefits



Note: Avalon does not review requests in an emergency room, ambulatory surgery center or inpatient hospital setting.

#### **MBMNOW (SPECIALTY PHARMACY)**

- Manages authorizations for certain specialty medications.
  - View the available lists on <u>www.SouthCarolinaBlues.com</u>.
    - Providers>Specialty and Pharmacy Drugs>Specialty Medical Medications
- To request an authorization:
  - Access MBMNow through My Insurance Manager
  - Call: 877-440-0089
  - Fax: 612-367-0742



### **COMPANION BENEFIT ALTERNATIVES**

- Manages authorizations for behavioral health services.
  - Examples of services include:
    - Psychological testing
    - Behavioral health program admissions
    - Repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS)
- To request an authorization:
  - Visit <u>www.CompanionBenefitAlternatives.com</u>.
  - Call: 800-868-1032



# **AUTHORIZATION RESOURCES**



#### **STANDARD PRIOR AUTHORIZATION LIST**

- BlueCross developed a standard prior authorization list.
  - <u>www.SouthCarolinaBlues.com</u>
    - Providers>Policies and Authorizations>Prior Authorization
- The list only applies to the following lines of business:
  - National Alliance
  - Major Group
  - Small Group and Individual
  - Planned Administrators Inc.
  - State Health Plan
- The list is not all inclusive and is subject to change. It's a guide that includes the most requested services that require medical review for prior authorizations.

#### South Carolina

#### SERVICES THAT REQUIRE PRIOR AUTHORIZATION STANDARD LIST EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 2024

Many of our plans require prior authorization for certain procedures and services. This process allows us to check ahead of time whether services meet criteria for coverage by a member's health plan. Some services on this list may not be covered by the benefit plan. Always verify benefits prior to services being rendered.

Prior authorization is not a guarantee of payment. Benefits and eligibility are determined before medical guidelines and payment guidelines are applied.

This list is not all inclusive and is subject to change. It is a guide that includes the most commonly requested services requiring a medical review. Other services may require review based on our medical policies, guidelines or the employer group's plan of benefits. Please review specific contract verbiage for exclusions, limitations and/or maximums.

List does not apply to medical specialty drugs. To find out which medical specialty drugs require prior authorization under the medical plan or the Specialty Medical Benefit Management (SMBM) program, refer to www.SouthCarolinaBlues.com or My Insurance Manager<sup>™</sup>.

Some plans may require prior authorization for mental health services. Contact Companion Benefit Alternatives (CBA) to verify by calling 800-868-1032. CBA is a wholly owned subsidiary of Blue Cross Blue Shield.

#### **Online Resources and Tools**

www.SouthCarolinaBlues.com www.CompanionBenefitAlternatives.com https://www.bcbs.com/blue-distinction-center/facility

- Medical Policies
- · Prior Authorization Forms and Information
- Clinical Form Resource Center
- Blue Distinction Center Facility Finder

#### Prior Authorization List Applies to the Following BlueCross Lines of Business:

- National Alliance
- Major Group Fully Insured and ASO
- Small Group and Individual
- Planned Administrators Inc (PAI)
- State Health Plan

#### **AUTHORIZATION RESOURCES**

Benefit Program	Authorization Service	Web-based Requests	Telephone Requests	Fax Requests
BlueCross	[various]	My Insurance Manager	800-334-7287	
BlueChoice	[various]	My Insurance Manager	800-950-5387	
FEP	[various]	My Insurance Manager	800-327-3238	
State Health Plan	[various]	My Insurance Manager	800-925-9724	
Avalon	Laboratory	Avalon PAS (inside My Insurance Manager)	844-227-5769	813-751-3760
СВА	Behavioral/Substance Abuse	www.CompanionBenefitAlternatives.com	800-868-1032	
Evolent	<ul> <li>Advanced Radiology</li> <li>Musculoskeletal Care</li> <li>Radiation Oncology</li> </ul>	www.RadMD.com	BlueCross: 866-500-7664 BlueChoice: 888-642-9181	888-656-1321
MBMNow	Specialty Medical Drug	My Insurance Manager	877-440-0089	612-367-0742

#### **OUT-OF-STATE MEMBER AUTHORIZATIONS**

Use the BlueCard Authorization/Medical Policy tool to verify authorization requirements for out-of-state members.



#### **OUT-OF-STATE MEMBER AUTHORIZATIONS (CONTINUED)**

#### Example

BlueCard Prior Authorization/Medical Policies	
Need prior authorization for a patient who is a member of another Blue plan? If prior authorization is required, you can initi <u>Manager<sup>SM</sup>. Once you've logged in, go to Patient Care. Then select "Pre-Service Review for Out-of-Area Members" from the</u>	
	Home > Providers > Prior authorization > Prior plan approval
To view an out-of-area Blue Plan's medical policy or general prior authorization information, please select the type of inform letters of the identification number on the member's Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield card, and click Submit.	PROVIDERS
Type of Information	Prior plan approval
Please select only one.	
Medical Policy     General Precertification/Preauthorization Information     Alpha Prefix	Prior review (prior plan approval, prior authorization, prospective review or certification) is the process Blue Cross NC uses to review the provision of certain behavioral health, medical services and medications against health care management guidelines prior to the services being provided. Inpatient admissions, services and procedures received on an outpatient basis, such as in a doctor's office, and prescription medications may be subject to prior review.
	You can search for <u>services and durable medical equipment</u> , or <u>medications</u> that require authorization for all places of service, including when performed during any inpatient admission, including both planned inpatient admissions and emergent inpatient admissions. <sup>1</sup>
	Reviews may confirm:
Submit	Member eligibility
	Benefit coverage     Compliance with Blue Cross NC corporate and Blue Medicare
If you experience difficulties or need additional information, please contact 800-676-BLUE.	medical policies regarding medical necessity
	Appropriateness of setting
	<ul> <li>Requirements for use of in-network and out-of-network facilities and professionals</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Identification of comorbidities and other problems requiring specific discharge needs</li> </ul>

### **PEER-TO-PEER REQUESTS**

- Process to review and discuss denied prior authorizations.
  - Must be requested before submitting claims.
- Required criteria:
  - Medical necessity adverse decision was received, along with health plan denial
  - Requested within two business days of the denial for inpatient or continued stay requests OR five business days for all other denials
  - Requested prior to an authorization
- Clinical discussion:
  - Facilitated within one business day of receipt of request
  - Our medical doctor makes two attempt to contact the rendering provider
  - A decision is rendered at the end of the call

#### **HOW TO REQUEST A PEER-TO-PEER**

#### **Initiating Requests and Checking Statuses**

#### South Carolina Website

Visit <u>www.SouthCarolinaBlues.com</u>

Providers>Forms>Other Forms>Peer-to-Peer Request

- Enter all pertinent details (and save the document)
- Email the form to <u>Peer.Medical@bcbssc.com</u> or fax to 803-264-9175

Phone (for statuses and eligibility only)

• Call 803-264-8114

Available Monday - Friday

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. EST

#### **UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT COURTESY RE-EVALUATIONS**

- Utilization management courtesy re-evaluations are permitted for denials that are due to the following:
  - No clinical information submitted
  - Insufficient clinical information submitted
- To request a courtesy review, you must:
  - Specify the request is for a re-evaluation upon submission (via fax)
  - Submit clinical documentation within five business days of the denial notice



