



# Prior Authorization Quick Reference Guide

## Updated October 2024 (proprietary and confidential)

### Important information:

Prior authorization requests should be submitted on a CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield Community Health Plan Maryland (CareFirst CHPMD) Preauthorization Form along with sufficient clinical documentation via fax. To ensure timeliness of prior authorization requests, documentation submitted should include, but is not limited to:

- Completed preauthorization form
- Treatment received to date
- Current medical health status
- Complete clinical documentation supporting the request

## Maryland Medicaid (CareFirst CHPMD) pre-authorization request forms

- Visit [carefirstchpmd.com](http://carefirstchpmd.com) to access the forms online
- Providers can fax the forms to:
  - 443-552-7407 or 443-552-7408 (medical requests)
  - 844-329-0865 (SNF and Medical Injectable Requests)
- Call 800-730-8543 or 410-779-9359 for telephonic inquiries for prior authorization

## Out-of-network

Before seeking out-of-network care, members should speak with their Primary Care Physician.

- Urgent or emergent care
- Maryland Medicaid self-referral services (e.g. school-based health centers, family planning services, renal dialysis for CareFirst CHPMD members)
- See CareFirst CHPMD member handbook for a full listing of benefits and self-referral services.

## Authorization not required

CareFirst CHPMD does not require authorization for most office and routine patient ambulatory based services provided by an in-network provider and/or an in-network freestanding facility.

- Acupuncture
- Cardiac Cath
- Chemotherapy (exceptions listed under authorization required section)
- Chiropractic Services (under age 21)
- Cholecystectomy (Laparoscopic)
- Colonoscopy
- Cystoscopy (Cystectomy, w/Urethroscopy, w/Lithotripsy)
- Diabetic education
  - Self-management training
  - Nutritional counseling
  - Screening and supplies
- Dialysis
- DME/DMS purchase less than \$500
- Endoscopy (EGD, ERCP)
- Emergency/Urgent Care (within U.S.)
- Hearing screening
- Hysteroscopy/Hysterectomy
- Laboratory/Pathology
- Nutrition counseling
- Observation
- Office visits for physician or practitioner services
  - Primary Care including wellness and/or Preventative Visits,
  - Immunizations/Vaccinations, ESPDT
  - Specialist consultations/evaluations
  - Pain management consultations/evaluations
  - Podiatry\* including diabetic care services and routine foot care for vascular disease affecting lower extremities
  - Prenatal and post-partum
- Outpatient therapy (over age 21)
  - Physical, occupational and speech therapy
- Radiation therapy
- Radiology screenings including:
  - Bone density, mammograms, AAA ultrasound, OB ultrasound, low dose lung CT
- Radiology services performed by freestanding radiology network providers including:
  - CT, CTA, Digital X-ray, MRI, MRA, Nuclear Stress Test, PET and Ultrasound
- Sleep Studies

## Authorization required

### Home visits

Concurrent or additional home visits after the initial evaluation visit for:

- Skilled Nursing
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Home Health Aide
- Home Infusion
- Hospice
- Private Duty Nursing under 21 years of age
- Social Work

### In-patient admissions

All elective and emergent admissions, including skilled nursing facility and long-term care facility.

### Outpatient

- Acne Surgery
- Audiology
- Bariatric Surgery
- Biofeedback
- Bone Marrow Biopsy, Harvesting, Transplantation
- Bone Stimulation
- Cell Harvesting (stemcell, t-cell)
- Chemodenervation
- Chemical Peels, Dermabrasions
- Clinical Trials
- Cosmetic Surgery
- DME/DMS Purchase over \$500 and all Rentals and/ or Repairs
- Facet Joint Injections
- Hearing Aids

- Meals Post-Discharge Hospital or SNF
- NerveBlock
- Neurostimulation
- Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
- Pain Management Procedures—Joint, Trigger Point and Spinal Injections
- Pharmacy see Carve Outs/Delegation below
- Plastic Surgery
- Radiology services performed by out-patient hospital radiology providers including
  - CT
  - CTA
  - Digital Xray
  - MRI/MRA
  - Nuclear Stress Test
  - PET
  - Ultrasound
- Reconstructions, Reductions, Implantations
- Skin/Subcutaneous Tissue Excisions, Removal of Lesions
- Sterilization
- Telemedicine and remote patient monitoring
- Vein Ablation Therapy, Ligation or Stripping

### Rehabilitative therapies

Concurrent or additional visits after the **Initial Evaluation visit** for Seating Evaluations, Pulmonary and/or Cardiac Rehab

See Carve Outs/Delegation for under 21

## Authorization required (cont.)

### Medical injectables

This list of medical injectables, and their related biosimilars, all require prior authorization.

### Carve outs/delegation

Maryland Medicaid (CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield Community Health Plan Maryland)

### Pharmacy

- Member Services—855-566-8397
- Prior Authorization—877-418-4133

Prior authorization for formulary and non-formulary products requiring: PA (Prior Authorization), QL (Quantity Limit), or ST (Step Therapy)

Visit [carefirstchpmd.com](https://www.carefirstchpmd.com) to access the formulary search tool online. To access the online search tool, click on *For Providers* and select *Pharmacy Information*.

### Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder

Specialty Behavioral Health System—800-932-3918

### Dental (children/pregnant women)

Healthy Smiles—855-934-9812

### Vision

Superior Vision 800-879-6901

### Non-Emergent Medical Transportation

Contact the local Health Department.

### Maryland Medical Assistance Beneficiary Hotline—800-492-5231:

- Abortions
- Emergency transportation
- HIV/AIDS services (viral load, genotypic, phenotypic or other resistance testing)
- Medical day services
- Outpatient PT, OT and ST for recipients under the age of 21
- Personal care services
- Speech augmentation

## Authorization required

Verification of eligibility, and/or benefit information, or authorization is not a guarantee of payment. Authorizations are subject to eligibility requirements and benefit plan limitations and assumes that providers bill with codes billable under the current Medicaid Fee Schedule.