

Prior Authorization policy changes related to COVID-19

Prior authorization (PA) continues to be one of the top administrative burdens as it impedes with the quality of patient care and creates unnecessary costs for dermatologists. There is no standard way of submitting a prior authorization, especially with several insurance company rules in place.

The AMA has gathered [prior authorization policy changes](#) related to COVID-19. The AAD|A is tracking these changes and have listed dermatology related details below. This list will be updated accordingly.

<u>Plan</u>	<u>Details</u>
Aetna	Elective procedures: Aetna continues to require PA and to review PA requests for elective procedures; providers are responsible for complying with applicable state directives that restrict elective procedures
	Extension of PA approval windows: Beginning 4/27/20, Aetna is extending the duration of new PAs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PA requests for commercial members will be approved for 9 months instead of the standard 6 months (call Aetna for extension on existing 6-month approvals) - PA requests for Medicare Advantage members will be approved for up to 9 months, but not longer than the end of the plan year
Blue Cross Blue Shield Association: <u>All 36 BCBS plans</u>	BCBS will waive prior authorizations for diagnostic tests and for covered services that are medically necessary and consistent with CDC guidance for members if diagnosed with COVID-19
	BCBS will increase access to prescription medications by waiving early medication refill limits on 30-day prescription maintenance medications (consistent with a member’s benefit plan) and/or encouraging members to use their 90-day mail order benefit

	BCBS will expand access to telehealth and nurse/provider hotlines
<p>Blue Cross Blue Shield Association:</p> <p><u>Anthem</u> (CA, CO, CT, GA, IN, KT, ME, MO, NH, NV, NY, OH, VA, WI) - additional policy updates</p> <p>Note: Most Anthem plans have implemented additional policy changes, including suspension or extension of certain PAs. For more information, visit the relevant state-specific provider communications page at https://providernews.anthem.com/state (e.g., https://providernews.anthem.com/georgia)</p>	Transfers: PA requirements suspended for patient transfers
<p>Blue Cross Blue Shield Association:</p> <p><u>Health Care Services Corporation</u></p>	Transfers: PA waived for transfers to in-network
Centene	COVID-19 screening/testing/treatment: PA/step therapy not required for medically necessary COVID-19 screening, testing, or treatment services
Cigna	<p>COVID-19 screening/testing: PA not required for COVID-19 evaluation/testing</p> <p>Extension of medication PAs: Automatic 90-day extension of existing medication PAs set to expire between 4/1/20 and 6/1/20</p>
Humana	<p>Non-COVID-19 services: Effective 5/22/20, all standard PA and referral protocols are reinstated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For Medicaid and Commercial lines, Humana will continue to monitor and comply with state rules where an executive order exists to suspend authorizations and referrals - Reminder of PA extension for PAs not completed: Humana applied a 90-day extension to the expiration date on PAs approved before 4/1/20

UnitedHealthCare	Extension of PAs for inpatient and outpatient medical services: 90-day extension, based on the original authorization date, of existing PAs with an end date or date of service between 3/24/20 and 5/31/20
CVS	Extension of medication PAs: Extension of existing PAs set to expire before 6/30/20 for “most” medications <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Presumed 90-day extension (“if a current [PA] is set to expire on May 15, the expiration date will be extended to August 15”)
OptumRX	Extension of medication PAs: One-time, 90-day extension of existing PAs set to expire on or before 5/1/20 for medications taken on a chronic basis <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Existing PA and renewal requirements remain in place for:<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Drugs with significant abuse potentialo Drugs dosed for finite durations or intermittently (e.g., hepatitis or fertility agents)o Newly prescribed medications
	Important: OptumRx selected not to extend the one-time, 90-day extension of existing PAs; standard PA protocols are resumed for all medications requiring renewal after 5/2/20

List updated on: 6/23/2020