

2024 Medicare Advantage updates

Medicare Advantage changes surrounding prior authorizations



What's changing?

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is explicitly putting patients first, stating plan burden is overshadowed by ensuring equitable patient access to medically necessary services for Medicare beneficiaries.

Starting with plan year 2024, the Medicare Advantage Organizations (MAOs) may not use any utilization management (UM) policy or procedure for basic or supplemental benefits that is not reviewed and approved by the UM Committee.

Disclaimer:

Medtronic provides this information for your convenience only. It does not constitute legal advice or a recommendation regarding clinical practice. Information provided is gathered from third-party sources and is subject to change without notice due to frequently changing laws, rules and regulations. The provider has the responsibility to determine medical necessity and to submit appropriate codes and charges for care provided. Medtronic makes no guarantee that the use of this information will prevent differences of opinion or disputes with Medicare or other payers as to the correct form of billing or the amount that will be paid to providers of service. Please contact your Medicare contractor, other payers, reimbursement specialists and/or legal counsel for interpretation of coding, coverage and payment policies. This document provides assistance for FDA approved or cleared indications. Where reimbursement is sought for use of a product that may be inconsistent with, or not expressly specified in, the FDA cleared or approved labeling (e.g., instructions for use, operator's manual or package insert), consult with your billing advisors or payers on handling such billing issues. Some payers may have policies that make it inappropriate to submit claims for such items or related service.

CPT codes and descriptions only are copyright ©2023 American Medical Association. All rights reserved. No fee schedules are included in CPT. The American Medical Association assumes no liability for data contained or not contained herein.



Background

The Office of the Investigator General (OIG) findings identified significant denial of care by MAOs that would have been furnished under Medicare Fee-For-Service (FFS). Additional reports and studies highlight similar results.

Finalized in April 2023, CMS incorporated external recommendations to set significant provisions and clarifications as it relates to coverage policy provisions and utilization management including prior authorization.



Final Rule

The Final Rule guidelines includes:

Coverage policy provisions

- › MAOs **must follow Medicare NCDs** or applicable jurisdictional LCDs
- › Clarification that MAOs **must cover services under both NCDs with CED and CMS approved IDE Clinical Studies**
- › In the absence of an NCD or LCD, MAOs may establish internal coverage policies **only on the basis of current clinical treatment guidelines or published clinical literature** that is publicly available to CMS, patients, and providers

Utilization management, including prior authorization

- › When there is an applicable NCD or LCD, prior authorization may only be used for confirmation of diagnosis or other medical criteria
- › Prior authorization may **not** be used for emergency or urgently needed or stabilization services
- › All MAOs must establish Utilization Management (UM) Committees to ensure consistency with coverage guidelines

For questions about these rules, impact for your patient population, and how to advocate for your patients, contact your internal revenue cycle or regulatory partners.

Contact

For additional information, contact the Medtronic Reimbursement Customer Support team by phone at 866-877-4102 or by email at: rs.healthcareconomics@medtronic.com.

Reference

Federal Register, volume 88 issue 70 (Wednesday, April 12, 2023). <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-04-12/pdf/2023-07115.pdf>. Accessed December 19, 2023

Medtronic
710 Medtronic Parkway
Minneapolis, MN 55432-5604
USA

Toll-free in USA: 800.633.8766
Worldwide: +1.763.514.4000

medtronic.com

UC202408318 EN ©2024
Medtronic. Minneapolis, MN.
All Rights Reserved.
Printed in USA. 01/2024

Medtronic and the Medtronic logo are trademarks of Medtronic™
Third party brands are trademarks of their respective owners. All
other brands are trademarks of a Medtronic company.

Medtronic