

In this document

BCN commercial members only: Referral and plan notification requirements1

Services that require prior authorization2

 Behavioral health services (mental health and substance use disorders).....2

 Non-behavioral health services3

This document describes the referral and plan notification requirements that apply to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network members. It also summarizes the types of procedures and services that require prior authorization for Blue Cross and BCN members and indicates which entity manages prior authorizations.

Note: To view prior authorization requirements for MESSA members, see the document titled [MESSA's list of services requiring mandatory prior authorization](#)* at messa.org.

BCN commercial members only: Referral and plan notification requirements

Referral and plan notification requirements apply only to BCN commercial members. They don't apply to Blue Cross commercial, Medicare Plus Blue or BCN Advantage members.

	Blue Cross commercial fully insured	Blue Cross commercial self-funded groups	Medicare Plus Blue	BCN commercial	BCN Advantage
Referral and plan notification	No	No	No	Yes – varies by region and product	No

Submit referral requests and plan notifications through the e-referral system, as outlined in the [e-referral User Guide](#).

When are referrals needed? BCN commercial's referral requirements vary based on region and the BCN product through which the member has coverage.

What is plan notification? Plan notification alerts BCN to a scheduled service and facilitates claims payment (clinical review isn't needed). BCN commercial's plan notification requirement varies based on region.

When are referrals and plan notifications required? Providers must follow the requirements that apply to the region in which the headquarters for their medical care group is located.

- In the East and Southeast regions, submit referral requests and plan notifications to BCN through the e-referral system.
- In the Mid, West and Upper Peninsula regions, referrals and plan notifications **aren't** required. Providers don't need to submit anything in the e-referral system.

Notes:

- See [Michigan providers: BCN global referral, plan notification and prior authorization requirements](#) for additional information about referrals and plan notifications.
- In all regions, prior authorization is required when the provider is out-of-network for the member's plan. See the [Michigan providers: BCN global referral, plan notification and prior authorization requirements](#) document for additional details.

Services that require prior authorization

The tables that follow are not all-inclusive lists of procedures and services that require prior authorization. For more information, visit authorizations.bcbsm.com.

Note: The information in these tables is for summary purposes only. For Blue Cross commercial members, not all services in the categories listed require prior authorization for every employer group. The lists of groups identified as excluded from specific authorization requirements are not all-inclusive. Providers are responsible for identifying the need for prior authorization through our provider portal (availity.com*) or through Provider Inquiry. Providers are responsible for contacting Blue Cross, BCN or the designated vendor to obtain prior authorization for services.

Behavioral health services (mental health and substance use disorders)

For additional information, refer to the [Behavioral Health](#) and the [Autism Services](#) pages on authorizations.bcbsm.com.

Procedure or service	Is prior authorization required? / Who makes the determinations				
	Blue Cross commercial fully insured	Blue Cross commercial self-funded groups	Medicare Plus Blue	BCN commercial	BCN Advantage
Routine outpatient therapy in clinic or provider office	No	No	No	No	No
Outpatient autism services (applied behavior analysis)	Yes Blue Cross Behavioral Health SM	Yes, if the group opts into the standard BlueCross autism program Blue Cross Behavioral Health	Yes Blue Cross Behavioral Health	Yes Blue Cross Behavioral Health	Yes Blue Cross Behavioral Health
Outpatient ECT	No	No	No	No	No
Outpatient neurofeedback	No	No	No	Yes Blue Cross Behavioral Health	Yes Blue Cross Behavioral Health
Outpatient TMS	Yes Blue Cross Behavioral Health	Yes, if the group offers the TMS benefit Blue Cross Behavioral Health	No	Yes Blue Cross Behavioral Health	Yes Blue Cross Behavioral Health

Summary of utilization management programs for Michigan providers

For Blue Cross commercial, Medicare Plus BlueSM,
Blue Care Network commercial and BCN AdvantageSM

Revised May 2026

Procedure or service	Is prior authorization required? / Who makes the determinations				
	Blue Cross commercial fully insured	Blue Cross commercial self-funded groups	Medicare Plus Blue	BCN commercial	BCN Advantage
Initial inpatient, residential or partial hospital	Yes Blue Cross Behavioral Health	Yes Blue Cross Behavioral Health	Yes¹ Blue Cross Behavioral Health	Yes Blue Cross Behavioral Health	Yes¹ Blue Cross Behavioral Health
Intensive outpatient treatment	No	No	No	No	No
Subacute detox, inpatient	Yes Blue Cross Behavioral Health	Yes Blue Cross Behavioral Health	Yes Blue Cross Behavioral Health	Yes Blue Cross Behavioral Health	Yes Blue Cross Behavioral Health
Subacute detox, outpatient — for providers who are contracted to provide this service	No	No	No	No	No

¹Note: Medicare Plus Blue and BCN Advantage don't have a residential mental health treatment benefit.

Non-behavioral health services

Procedure or service	Is prior authorization required? / Who makes the determination?				
	Blue Cross commercial fully insured	Blue Cross commercial self-funded groups	Medicare Plus Blue	BCN commercial	BCN Advantage
Air ambulance Refer to the Air Ambulance Services page.	Yes Alacura Medical Transport Management, for non-emergency flights only	Yes Alacura Medical Transport Management, for non-emergency flights only	No	Yes Alacura Medical Transport Management, for non-emergency flights only	No
Cardiology (See also: Echocardiology row) Refer to the Cardiology Services page.	Yes Carelton Medical Benefits Management	No	Yes Carelton	Yes Carelton	Yes Carelton
Chiropractic services Refer to the Chiropractic Services page.	No	No	No	Yes BCN Utilization Management	Yes BCN Utilization Management

Summary of utilization management programs for Michigan providers

For Blue Cross commercial, Medicare Plus BlueSM,
Blue Care Network commercial and BCN AdvantageSM

Revised May 2026

Procedure or service	Is prior authorization required? / Who makes the determination?				
	Blue Cross commercial fully insured	Blue Cross commercial self-funded groups	Medicare Plus Blue	BCN commercial	BCN Advantage
<p>Continuous glucose monitor products</p> <p>Prior authorization could be required in certain circumstances. Northwood, Inc. or the network pharmacy will coordinate prior authorization requests as needed.</p> <p>Refer to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous glucose monitor products: FAQs for prescribing providers Diabetes Supplies page 	<p>Yes</p> <p>Northwood (preferred provider)</p> <p>Members who have pharmacy benefits through Blue Cross can also obtain CGM products through a participating network pharmacy.</p>	<p>No</p> <p>The dispensing DME supplier may require the member to fulfill coverage criteria. (Northwood doesn't manage prior authorizations for Blue Cross commercial self-funded groups.)</p> <p>Members who have pharmacy benefits through Blue Cross can also obtain CGM products through a participating network pharmacy. Prior authorization may be required.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>For dates of service on or after Oct. 1, 2024</p> <p>Submit prescription to network pharmacy</p> <p>Exception: UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust members must obtain CGMs through a DME supplier.</p> <p>For dates of service before Oct. 1, 2024</p> <p>Northwood, Inc. (preferred provider)</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Northwood, Inc.</p> <p>Members who have pharmacy benefits through BCN can also obtain CGM products through a participating network pharmacy.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>For dates of service on or after Oct. 1, 2024</p> <p>Submit prescription to network pharmacy</p> <p>Exception: UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust members must obtain CGMs through Northwood.</p> <p>For dates of service before Oct. 1, 2024</p> <p>Northwood, Inc.</p>
<p>Diabetes supplies</p> <p>Prior authorization is required only in certain circumstances; see the provider FAQ for details.</p> <p>Refer to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous glucose monitor products: FAQs for prescribing providers Diabetes Supplies page 	<p>Yes</p> <p>Northwood, Inc. (preferred provider)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Northwood, Inc. (preferred provider)</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Northwood, Inc. (exclusive provider)</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Northwood, Inc. (exclusive provider)</p>
<p>Durable medical equipment and prosthetics and orthotics</p> <p>Refer to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous glucose monitor products: FAQs for prescribing providers DME/P&O page 	<p>Yes</p> <p>Northwood, Inc. (preferred provider)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Northwood, Inc. (preferred provider)</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Northwood, Inc.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Northwood, Inc.</p>
<p>Drugs covered under the medical benefit</p> <p>Refer to the Medical Benefit Drugs page. (See also: Oncology and supportive care drugs — medical benefit and pharmacy benefit row)</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Blue Cross Pharmacy department</p>	<p>Yes, for participating groups[†]</p> <p>Blue Cross Pharmacy department</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Blue Cross Pharmacy department</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>BCN Pharmacy department</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>BCN Pharmacy department</p>
<p>Submit requests through the Medical and Pharmacy Drug PA Portal, which you can access by clicking the <i>Medical and Pharmacy Benefit Drug Prior Auth</i> tile in our provider portal (availability.com[*]).</p>					
<p>[†]Participating groups are those that participate in the standard commercial Medical Drug Prior Authorization Program. To determine group participation, see the Specialty Pharmacy Prior Authorization Master Opt-in/out Group List.</p>					

Summary of utilization management programs for Michigan providers

For Blue Cross commercial, Medicare Plus BlueSM,
Blue Care Network commercial and BCN AdvantageSM

Revised May 2026

Procedure or service	Is prior authorization required? / Who makes the determination?				
	Blue Cross commercial fully insured	Blue Cross commercial self-funded groups	Medicare Plus Blue	BCN commercial	BCN Advantage
Drugs covered under the pharmacy benefit Refer to the Pharmacy Benefit Drugs page. (See also: Oncology and supportive care drugs — medical benefit and pharmacy benefit row)	Yes Blue Cross Pharmacy department	Yes Blue Cross Pharmacy department	Yes Blue Cross Pharmacy department	Yes BCN Pharmacy department	Yes BCN Pharmacy department
	Submit requests through the Medical and Pharmacy Drug PA Portal, which you can access by clicking the <i>Medical and Pharmacy Benefit Drug Prior Auth</i> tile in our provider portal (availability.com)*.†				
	†Alternately, providers can submit prior authorization requests through CoverMyMeds or other electronic prior authorization, or ePA, tools.				
Echocardiology Refer to the Cardiology Services page. (See also: Cardiology row)	Yes Carelon Medical Benefits Management	Yes Carelon For all groups except UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust, Blue Cross and Blue Shield Federal Employee Program®, State of Michigan plans and select Ascension Health groups	Yes Carelon	Yes Carelon	Yes Carelon
Genetic and molecular testing Refer to the Laboratory Services page.	No	No	No	Yes Joint Venture Hospital Laboratories	Yes Joint Venture Hospital Laboratories
Home healthcare services Refer to the Home Health Care page	No	No	Yes For episodes of care that start or after March 1, 2026, and for episodes that start before March 1 and continue through or beyond March 1: tango No For episodes of care that start before March 1, 2026	No	Yes For episodes of care that start or after March 1, 2026, and for episodes that start before March 1 and continue through or beyond March 1: tango No For episodes of care that start before March 1, 2026
Inpatient admissions, acute care (hospitals) Refer to the Acute Inpatient Medical and Surgical Admissions page.	Yes Blue Cross Utilization Management	Yes Blue Cross Utilization Management	Yes Blue Cross Utilization Management	Yes BCN Utilization Management	Yes BCN Utilization Management
	See also: Guidelines for bundling admissions				

Summary of utilization management programs for Michigan providers

For Blue Cross commercial, Medicare Plus BlueSM,
Blue Care Network commercial and BCN AdvantageSM

Revised May 2026

Procedure or service	Is prior authorization required? / Who makes the determination?				
	Blue Cross commercial fully insured	Blue Cross commercial self-funded groups	Medicare Plus Blue	BCN commercial	BCN Advantage
Joint surgery – knee, hip, shoulder Refer to the Musculoskeletal Services page. (See also: Musculoskeletal procedures, other row)	Yes TurningPoint	Yes, for select groups TurningPoint For UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust non-Medicare members only Blue Cross For dates of service on or after Jan. 1, 2026, Blue Cross and Blue Shield Federal Employee Program members only	Yes TurningPoint	Yes TurningPoint	Yes TurningPoint
Musculoskeletal procedures, other Refer to the Musculoskeletal Services page. (See also: Joint surgery – knee, hip, shoulder row)	Yes TurningPoint	Yes, for select groups TurningPoint For UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust non-Medicare members only Blue Cross For dates of service on or after Jan. 1, 2026, Blue Cross and Blue Shield Federal Employee Program members only	Yes TurningPoint	Yes TurningPoint	Yes TurningPoint

Summary of utilization management programs for Michigan providers

For Blue Cross commercial, Medicare Plus BlueSM,
Blue Care Network commercial and BCN AdvantageSM

Revised May 2026

Procedure or service	Is prior authorization required? / Who makes the determination?				
	Blue Cross commercial fully insured	Blue Cross commercial self-funded groups	Medicare Plus Blue	BCN commercial	BCN Advantage
Oncology and supportive care drugs — medical benefit and pharmacy benefit, managed through the Oncology Value Management program Refer to the Medical Benefit Drugs page. (See also: Radiation oncology row)	Yes OncoHealth Exception: MESSA doesn't participate in this program.	Yes, for participating groups Carelon for UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust PPO non-Medicare members OncoHealth for other self-funded groups that participate in this program [†]	Yes OncoHealth	Yes OncoHealth for all fully insured groups and for self-funded groups that participate in this program. [†]	Yes OncoHealth
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before Jan. 1, 2025, Carelon managed prior authorizations for oncology medical benefit drugs for all groups that had requirements under the program and for all individual members. Before April 1, 2025, Blue Cross and BCN managed prior authorizations for oncology pharmacy benefit drugs for all members. When administered in inpatient or outpatient settings, submit prior authorization requests for gene and cellular therapy drugs through the Medical and Pharmacy Drug PA Portal, which is accessed by clicking the <i>Medical and Pharmacy Benefit Drug Prior Auth</i> tile in our provider portal (availability.com[*]). [†] To determine which groups participate, see the opt-out list for self-funded groups .				
Pain management Refer to the Pain Management Services page.	Yes TurningPoint	Yes, for select groups TurningPoint For UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust non-Medicare members	No , for dates of service on or after May 1, 2025 Yes TurningPoint	Yes TurningPoint	No , for dates of service on or after May 1, 2025 Yes TurningPoint
Physical, occupational and speech therapy with an autism diagnosis[†] Refer to the Autism Services page.	No	No	Not applicable	No	Not applicable
[†] Includes physical medicine services by athletic trainers and by chiropractors					
Physical and occupational therapy with a non-autism diagnosis Refer to the PT, OT, ST and Physical Medicine Services page.	No	No	No	Yes EviCore by Evernorth Includes physical medicine services by chiropractors and by athletic trainers	Yes EviCore
Post-acute care (SNF, inpatient rehab, LTACH) Refer to the Post-Acute Care page.	Yes Blue Cross Utilization Management	Yes Blue Cross Utilization Management	Yes For stays that start on or after Jan. 5, 2026: WellSky [®] For stays that start before Jan. 5, 2026: Blue Cross Utilization Management	Yes BCN Utilization Management	Yes For stays that start on or after Jan. 5, 2026: WellSky For stays that start before Jan. 5, 2026: BCN Utilization Management

Summary of utilization management programs for Michigan providers

For Blue Cross commercial, Medicare Plus BlueSM,
Blue Care Network commercial and BCN AdvantageSM

Revised May 2026

Procedure or service	Is prior authorization required? / Who makes the determination?				
	Blue Cross commercial fully insured	Blue Cross commercial self-funded groups	Medicare Plus Blue	BCN commercial	BCN Advantage
Private duty nursing For: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCPCS codes S9123 and S9124 • Members who have the benefit Refer to the Private Duty Nursing page.	Yes, for select groups Utilization Management department	Yes, for select groups Utilization Management department	No	Yes Utilization Management department	No
Proton beam therapy Refer to the Oncology Services page. (For information about other radiation oncology procedures, see the Radiation oncology row)	Yes EviCore by Evernorth	Yes Carelon For all groups, including UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust non-Medicare members. Exceptions: UAW Retiree Healthcare Trust (group 70605) and UAW International Union (group 71714), Blue Cross and Blue Shield Federal Employee Program, State of Michigan plans and select Ascension Health groups	Yes EviCore	Yes EviCore	Yes EviCore
Radiation oncology, other than proton beam therapy Refer to the Oncology Services page. (For information about proton beam therapy, see Proton beam therapy above.)	Yes EviCore by Evernorth	Yes Carelon Medical Benefits Management For UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust non-Medicare members only except UAW Retiree Healthcare Trust (group 70605) and UAW International Union (group 71714)	Yes EviCore	Yes EviCore	Yes EviCore

Summary of utilization management programs for Michigan providers

For Blue Cross commercial, Medicare Plus BlueSM,
Blue Care Network commercial and BCN AdvantageSM

Revised May 2026

Procedure or service	Is prior authorization required? / Who makes the determination?				
	Blue Cross commercial fully insured	Blue Cross commercial self-funded groups	Medicare Plus Blue	BCN commercial	BCN Advantage
Radiology procedures (high-tech imaging) Refer to the Radiology Services, High Tech page.	Yes Carelon Medical Benefits Management	Yes Carelon For all groups, including Blue Cross and Blue Shield Federal Employee Program and UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust Excluded are State of Michigan plans and select Ascension Health groups	Yes Carelon	Yes Carelon	Yes Carelon
Sleep studies, in lab — includes the implantation of hypoglossal nerve stimulation devices Refer to the Sleep Studies page.	Yes Blue Cross Utilization Management For adult members (includes MESSA) for dates of service on or after Nov. 3, 2025. Carelon Medical Benefits Management For adult and pediatric members for dates of service before Nov. 3, 2025	Yes Blue Cross Utilization Management For most adult members for dates of service on or after Nov. 3, 2025. Carelon For adult members who have coverage through Chrysler, Delphi/Aptiv, General Motors and URMBT for all dates of service For most other adult and pediatric members for dates of service before Nov. 3, 2025 Exceptions: Blue Cross and Blue Shield Federal Employee Program, State of Michigan plans and select Ascension Health groups don't require prior authorization for sleep studies.	No	Yes BCN Utilization Management For adult members for dates of service on or after Nov. 3, 2025. Submit plan notification for pediatric BCN commercial members when the service is performed in the East or Southeast region for dates of service on or after Nov. 3, 2025. Carelon For all adult and pediatric members for dates of service before Nov. 3, 2025.	No
Speech therapy with a non-autism diagnosis Refer to the PT, OT, ST and Physical Medicine Services page.	No	No	No	Yes EviCore by Evernorth	Yes EviCore

Summary of utilization management programs for Michigan providers

For Blue Cross commercial, Medicare Plus BlueSM,
Blue Care Network commercial and BCN AdvantageSM

Revised May 2026

Procedure or service	Is prior authorization required? / Who makes the determination?				
	Blue Cross commercial fully insured	Blue Cross commercial self-funded groups	Medicare Plus Blue	BCN commercial	BCN Advantage
Spine surgery – cervical and lumbar Refer to the Musculoskeletal Services page.	Yes TurningPoint	Yes, for select groups TurningPoint For UAW Retiree Medical Benefits Trust non-Medicare members Blue Cross For dates of service on or after Jan. 1, 2026, or Blue Cross and Blue Shield Federal Employee Program members only	Yes TurningPoint	Yes TurningPoint	Yes TurningPoint
Transplants Refer to the Transplant Services page.	Yes Blue Cross Human Organ Transplant team\	Yes Blue Cross Human Organ Transplant team	No	Yes Human Organ Transplant team	No

*Clicking this link means that you're leaving the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network website. While we recommend this site, we're not responsible for its content.

Alacura Medical Transport Management is an independent company that manages the prior authorization of non-emergency flights for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network members who have commercial plans.

Availity® is an independent company that contracts with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network to offer provider portal and electronic data interchange services.

Carelon Medical Benefits Management is an independent company that contracts with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network to manage prior authorizations for select services. For more information, go to our authorizations.bcbsm.com website.

EviCore by Evernorth is an independent company that contracts with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network to manage prior authorizations for select services. For more information, go to our authorizations.bcbsm.com website.

Joint Venture Hospital Laboratories is an independent company that provides a statewide network and third-party administration for outpatient laboratory services for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network members who have Medicare Plus Blue, BCN commercial and BCN Advantage plans. They also manage prior authorizations for genetic testing for members with BCN commercial or BCN Advantage coverage.

Northwood Inc. is an independent company that manages both prior authorizations and a supplier network for durable medical equipment, prosthetics and orthotics, and medical supplies (including diabetes supplies) for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network members.

OncoHealth is an independent company supporting Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network by providing cancer support services.

Tango and WellSky are independent companies that review member healthcare services for appropriateness and medical necessity on behalf of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network.

TurningPoint Healthcare Solutions LLC is an independent company that manages prior authorizations for musculoskeletal surgical and related procedures for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network.