

Durable medical equipment and prosthetics and orthotics

For prior authorization determinations

Revised July 2026

UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT



Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network provide utilization management programs.

Utilization management programs focus on ensuring that patients get the right care at the right time in the right location through the prior authorization process.

These programs vary based on member coverage and may be administered by Blue Cross or BCN staff or by independent companies, as specified below.

Utilization management

[Northwood, Inc.](#)

Keep reading to learn which members have access to or requirements under these programs. Programs may not apply to all members.

This document is subject to change. To ensure you're viewing the most up-to-date information, access this document through the Care and utilization management programs: Overview for providers link at the bottom of each page on authorizations.bcbsm.com; look in the Frequently Accessed Documents section.

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UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT

Northwood, Inc.

This utilization management program applies to:



Northwood manages both prior authorizations and the supplier network for durable medical equipment, prosthetics and orthotics (P&O), and medical and diabetes supplies.

Northwood makes determinations on prior authorization requests submitted by their contracted suppliers for the following groups and individual members:

- Blue Cross commercial — All fully insured groups and all members with individual coverage¹
- Medicare Plus Blue — All groups and all members with individual coverage²
- BCN commercial — All fully insured groups, all self-funded groups* and all members with individual coverage²
- BCN AdvantageSM — All groups and all members with individual coverage²

Continuous glucose monitor, or CGM, products

Requirements and options for obtaining CGM products vary depending on the member's plan. For example, most Medicare Advantage members must obtain CGM products through a participating network pharmacy while some commercial members can obtain them from a DME supplier or from a participating network pharmacy. For more information, see the document titled [Continuous glucose monitor products: FAQs for prescribing providers](#).

Resources

- [Durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics and medical supplies management program: FAQs for providers](#) PDF
- [Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics and Orthotics](#) page on [authorizations.bcbsm.com](#)
- [northwoodinc.com/northwood-providers](#)**

For Blue Cross commercial

Durable Medical Equipment, Medical Supplies, and Prosthetics and Orthotics Services chapter of the *Blue Cross Commercial Provider Manual*

For Medicare Plus Blue

“Durable medical equipment, prosthetics & orthotics and diabetes supplies” section of the [Medicare Plus Blue PPO Provider Manual](#)

For BCN commercial

[Utilization Management](#) chapter of the *BCN Provider Manual*

For BCN Advantage

- [Utilization Management](#) chapter of the *BCN Provider Manual*
- [BCN Advantage](#) chapter of the *BCN Provider Manual*

¹Northwood is the preferred DME provider for Blue Cross commercial and Medicare Plus Blue members who reside in Michigan.

²Northwood is the exclusive DME provider for BCN commercial and BCN Advantage members who reside in Michigan.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

About this document

This document lists coverage exceptions for major groups.

It also provides links to additional resources. For resources that are publicly available, we provide direct links. To access documents that aren't publicly available, including provider manual chapters:

1. Log in to our provider portal (availity.com**).
2. Click *Payer Spaces* on the menu bar and then click the BCBSM and BCN logo.
3. Click the *Resources* tab.
4. Click *Secure Provider Resources* (*Blue Cross and BCN*).

Information for non-Michigan providers

See the following documents for prior authorization requirements.

- For Blue Cross commercial and Medicare Plus Blue members: [Prior authorization requirements for Michigan and non-Michigan providers](#)
- For BCN commercial and BCN Advantage members: [Non-Michigan providers: BCN prior authorization requirements](#)

You can view these documents and our medical policies through the [Medical Policy & Pre-Cert/Pre-Auth Router](#). To access the router, go to bcbsm.com/providers, click *Resources*, scroll to the "Out-of-area prior authorization resources" section and click the *out-of-area router* link.

Reminder

As always, it's essential that providers check each member's eligibility and benefits prior to performing services.

Providers are responsible for identifying the need for prior authorization through our provider portal, Benefit Explainer or Provider Inquiry and for obtaining prior authorization for services, as needed.

*For self-funded plans, the employer assumes the risk for claims costs and pays a fee for administrative services provided by Blue Cross or BCN.

**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.

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.

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.