August 25, 2021

CORRECTION: In our letter dated August 23, 2021, we inadvertently omitted that the authorization provisions outlined in this letter do not apply for Federal Employee Program (FEP) members. Please continue to follow regular processes for FEP members.

COVID-19 Authorization Waivers

Dear Provider:

In response to the latest COVID-19 surge, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana announced we are waiving authorization requests for inpatient admission transfers to a lower level of care on and after August 9, 2021. We implemented additional provisions last week.

Authorization Waivers

Effective August 20, 2021, we are also waiving prior authorizations for:

- Urgent Inpatient Admissions and Stays:

    - All diagnoses for emergent/urgent stays will be approved.

    - Facilities must still notify Blue Cross of stay; however, medical review activities throughout stay are not required.

    - In-network benefits apply for participating providers.

    - Exception does not apply for elective, scheduled admissions or transplants.

    - Exception does not apply to out-of-state or non-participating providers/facilities.

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- Outpatient Services and Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Services:
    - For COVID-19 diagnoses only.
    - Providers must still notify Blue Cross of services; however, medical review activities are not required.
    - In-network benefits apply for participating providers.
    - Exception does not apply to out-of-state or non-participating providers/facilities.

More Online

Be sure to visit our COVID-19 Provider Resources Page, where you can access our latest communications. Go to www.BCBSLA.com/providers, then click on the "COVID-19 Provider Resources" link at the top of the page. We update this page as new information develops.

Contact Us

If you have questions about COVID-19 billing, email our Provider Relations Department at provider.relations@bcbsla.com. Please put "COVID-19" in the subject line. Thank you for all that you do for your patients—our members, especially during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

Provider Operations
Health Services Division

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