

Medical Notification & Prior Approval Requirements



Community Health Options, P.O. Box 1121, Lewiston, ME 04243 US, Phone: (855) 624-6463

Prior Approval Required:

Note: Code-specific requirements are available through our online authorization platform.

Category	Service
Advanced Diagnostic Imaging	Including CT, MRI, PET Scans. This is not an all-inclusive list.
Allergy Testing	Including IgG, IgE testing, Leukocyte Histamine Release (LHRT), Conjunctival Challenge Test (ophthalmic mucous membrane test), and direct nasal mucous membrane testing.
Ambulance/Air Transportation Services	Non-emergent ground and fixed-wing air ambulance transports require Prior Approval. No Prior Approval is required for emergent ground ambulance, hospital-to-hospital transfers, or fixed-wing air ambulance transportation.
Anesthesia	Anesthesia does not require separate Prior Approval, but an approved procedure must be on file for the date of service for the submitted anesthesia claim or the anesthesia claim will be denied.
Behavioral Health Services	Please refer to the Quick Reference Guide: Behavioral Health Services Prior Approval & Notification Requirements for further details.
Cardiac Surgery/ Cardiovascular Services	Percutaneous transluminal septal myocardial ablation, therapeutic apheresis, with extracorporeal selective adsorption or selective filtration and plasma reinfusion, transcatheter aortic valve replacement.
Cardiac Testing	Cardiac diagnostic testing requires Prior Approval. Code-specific requirements are available through our online authorization platform.
Chemotherapy	Code-specific requirements are available through our online authorization platform.
Colonoscopy	Includes screening exams, diagnostic exams and laboratory studies.
Dental and Orthognathic-Related Services	All benefits listed are subject to Member Benefit Agreement or Summary Plan Description, contract terms and medical review.
Dermatology Services	All potentially cosmetic procedures regardless of place of service.
Dialysis	End-stage renal disease (ESRD) outpatient dialysis services.
Durable Medical Equipment	See Separate Quick Reference Guide: Durable Medical Equipment Prior Approval Requirements .

Category	Service
Elective inpatient procedures/admissions	Notification is required within 48 hours of all acute inpatient admissions. Elective procedures require Prior Approval before the scheduled procedure date.
Experimental or Investigational Services	<p>Experimental, investigational or new procedures without proven effectiveness, miscellaneous codes and Category III codes are generally non-covered.</p> <p>All benefits listed are subject to Member Benefit Agreement or Summary Plan Description, contract terms and medical review.</p>
Gastroenterology and General Surgery	Code-specific requirements are available through our online authorization platform.
Genetic Testing	<p>Some exclusions apply to genetic testing, molecular diagnostics, pharmacogenetic testing.</p> <p>All benefits listed are subject to Member Benefit Agreement or Summary Plan Description, contract terms, and medical review.</p>
Genitourinary Services	Code-specific requirements are available through our online authorization platform.
Hearing Devices	<p>Cochlear implants require Prior Approval (refer to Member Benefit Agreement or Summary Plan Description for coverage).</p> <p>Hearing Aids do not require Prior Approval but are subject to benefit limit (refer to Member Benefit Agreement or Summary Plan Description for coverage).</p>
Home Infusion Therapy	<p>Prior Approval is required. Please submit the Medication Prior Approval form.</p> <p>Community Health Options encourages home infusions when medically appropriate.</p> <p>Quick Reference Guide Medications (Medical Benefit) Prior Approval Requirements.</p>
Hospice/Hospice Respite Care	Home hospice does not require authorization but could be subject to benefit limit (refer to Member Benefit Agreement or Summary Plan Description for coverage).
Infusion/Injectable	<p>Select Medical Benefit drugs and biologicals. Please submit the Medication Prior Approval form.</p> <p>If the medication is dispensed by a pharmacy, please submit applicable authorization requests to Express Scripts. Express Scripts Fax: (877) 329-3760, Phone (800) 753-2851</p> <p>Portal: https://client.medco.com/CWSCommonService/Login</p>

Category	Service
Laboratory Tests/ Procedures	<p>Below is a list of lab categories that generally require Prior Approval (not all-inclusive). Code-specific requirements are available through our online authorization platform.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allergen Specific IGE/IGG • Urine Drug Testing (see Urine Drug Testing for details) • Genetic Testing • Molecular Pathology Procedure • Unlisted Lab Codes
Long Term Acute Care Hospital (LTACH)	Admission to LTACH requires pre-service Prior Approval. Prior Approval is required before transport/transfer to LTACH.
Neurosurgical Services	Code-specific requirements are available through our online authorization platform.
Nuclear Studies	Code-specific requirements are available through our online authorization platform.
Ophthalmology Services	Code-specific requirements are available through our online authorization platform.
Orthopedic Services	Code-specific requirements are available through our online authorization platform.
Outpatient Services (all procedures, surgeries and services performed in an outpatient setting or Ambulatory Surgical Unit)	Code-specific requirements are available through our online authorization platform.
Pain Management Services	Code-specific requirements are available through our online authorization platform.
Parenteral and Enteral Therapy Services	Code-specific requirements are available through our online authorization platform.

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Potentially Cosmetic	<p>Surgery/procedures done for cosmetic reasons only are not covered. Includes associated screening, diagnostic exam and laboratory tests.</p> <p>Reconstructive surgery and potentially cosmetic procedures require Prior Approval to include but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eye procedures (blepharoplasty, blepharoptosis repair, ptosis repair) • Breast reconstruction/reduction • Panniculectomy and/or removal of excess skin/tissue • Congenital chest deformity repair (pectus carinatum, pectus excavatum, Poland syndrome) • Nasal procedures (rhinoplasty, septoplasty, rhinophyma treatment) • Removal of breast implants • Skin procedures (scar revisions, treatment of hemangiomas and port wine stains)
Unlisted Procedure Codes	All unlisted procedure codes require Prior Approval.
Wound Care Clinic Services	Code-specific requirements are available through our online authorization platform.
Wound Care Products and Procedure	Code-specific requirements are available through our online authorization platform.

This document provides general guidance regarding Notification and Prior Approval Requirements. It is not all inclusive and is subject to change without notice. Providers will receive a 60-day notice of any substantive changes. All benefits listed are subject to Member Benefit Agreement or Summary Plan Description, contract terms and medical review. Effective 1/1/2025.