



AmeriHealth Caritas™

District of Columbia

To: AmeriHealth Caritas DC Providers

Date: September 1, 2026

Subject: Prior Authorization Requirements for Non-Emergent Services

AmeriHealth Caritas District of Columbia (DC) is committed to ensuring enrollees receive medically necessary services in accordance with applicable coverage policies and program requirements. We would like to remind providers of the requirements related to prior authorization for non-emergent medical services. Certain services require prior authorization before they are rendered, as identified in the Prior Authorization Lookup (PAL) tool and applicable provider resources. Providers are responsible for verifying authorization requirements and obtaining all required approvals before services are rendered.

Prior authorization requests for non-emergent services that require authorization must be submitted and approved prior to the date of service. Services identified as requiring prior authorization are expected to have an approved authorization on file before services are rendered. Prior authorization requirements help ensure services are reviewed for medical necessity and coverage in accordance with plan policies and applicable program requirements.

Retrospective Authorization Requests

Beginning November 1, 2026, AmeriHealth Caritas DC will no longer routinely approve retrospective authorization requests for non-emergent services that required prior authorization but were rendered before an authorization request was submitted.

Retrospective authorization requests may be considered only in limited circumstances consistent with applicable plan policies, contractual obligations, or regulatory requirements.

Provider Responsibilities

Providers are responsible for:

- Verifying current prior authorization requirements before scheduling or rendering services.
- Obtaining all required prior authorizations before delivering non-emergent services.
- Maintaining documentation supporting authorization requests and approvals.
- Utilizing the PAL tool to confirm current authorization requirements. The PAL can be accessed on the AmeriHealth Caritas DC website at:
<http://www.amerihealthcaritasdc.com/provider/resources/prior-authorization-lookup-tool>

Important Reminder

Failure to obtain a required prior authorization before rendering a non-emergent service may result in a denial of payment.

Emergency services are not subject to prior authorization requirements and are excluded from this policy change, providers are encouraged to verify eligibility prior to delivering service.

Questions?

If you have questions regarding prior authorization requirements, please contact your Provider Account Executive or the Provider Services department at 202-408-2237.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to providing quality care to our enrollees.

Sincerely,
AmeriHealth Caritas DC