



AmeriHealth Caritas™

District of Columbia

To: AmeriHealth Caritas DC Providers

Date: October 22, 2020

Subject: Site of Care for Outpatient Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapy

Summary: Effective November 23, 2020, reimbursement for physical, occupational, or speech therapy for adults 21 or older performed at an outpatient hospital will only be made if the medical necessity of the services is established through prior authorization.

To help ensure that services are provided in the most clinically appropriate setting/site of care, and that the interdisciplinary rehabilitation goals for physical, occupational, and speech therapy (PT/OT/ST) are met, prior authorization is required to determine the medical necessity of PT/OT/ST services furnished to adults 21 or older in the outpatient hospital setting. The prior authorization process is intended to determine whether there is sufficient medical evidence of one of the following conditions (or as otherwise required by state law, regulation, state Medicaid contract, or provider contract):

1. Clinical complexity requires skilled practitioner services or oversight for safe and effective treatment because the member needs immediate access to hospital specific services due to risk of sudden life threatening condition. Examples include but are not limited to:
 - a. Acute mental status changes;
 - b. Oral anticoagulation therapy with a history of falls or impaired balance;
 - c. Treatment for major cardiac or thromboembolic events;
 - d. Treatment for severe/significant burns;
 - e. Treatment immediately following an amputation.
2. Physical, occupational, or speech therapy can only be performed at an outpatient hospital setting because the patient's physical limitations require specialized equipment only accessible at a hospital outpatient facility and clinically appropriate alternative services cannot be provided at a free-standing facility or in-home setting

Limitations:

None.

Questions:

If you have questions about this communication, please contact your Provider Account Executive or the Provider Services department at 202-408-2237.