



August 12, 2021

RE: Temporary Transfer Authorization Requirements Policy

Dear Provider:

With the latest surge of COVID-19, many Louisiana hospitals are seeing increased inpatient admissions. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana understands that there may be a growing need to transfer patients for continued medical services. To help ease our hospitals' administrative burdens, we are implementing the following temporary authorization requirement provisions in accordance with the Louisiana Department of Insurance Emergency Rule 46.¹

- For all acute inpatient admission transfers for dates of service on and after August 9, 2021, Blue Cross is suspending the requirement to obtain prior authorization to move patients from an acute care inpatient setting to a LTACH, SNF or inpatient rehabilitation facility setting. The following applies:
 1. The receiving facility should notify Blue Cross of the admission within 24 hours. We will automatically approve a 3-day stay for the receiving facility.
 2. Blue Cross will work with the receiving facility to perform a concurrent review by day 4. We will authorize appropriate continued stay based on medical necessity of the continued treatment of the underlying condition.
- We are allowing in-network level benefits to apply for all in-state and out-of-state inpatient admission transfers for our Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana and HMO Louisiana, Inc. members. This applies even if the facility is not specifically in the member's network.
- This change does not apply for our Blue Advantage HMO and Blue Advantage PPO members.

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¹Emergency Rule 46: www.doa.la.gov/media/beudsiyz/2108emr028.pdf

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Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana HMO offers Blue Advantage (HMO). Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana, incorporated as Louisiana Health Service & Indemnity Co., offers Blue Advantage (PPO). Both are independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

Blue Advantage from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana HMO is an HMO plan with a Medicare contract. Blue Advantage from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana is a PPO plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in either Blue Advantage plan depends on contract renewal.

Blue Cross will notify providers when these temporary authorization provisions are no longer effective. We will continue to review our authorization and billing guidelines as new developments occur.

More Online

Be sure to visit our COVID-19 Provider Resources Page, where you can access our latest provider communications. Go to www.BCBSLA.com/providers, then click on the "COVID-19 Provider Resources" link at the top of the page. We will continue to add updated information to this page as it 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 Transfers" 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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