



September 16, 2021

## **Additional COVID-19 Authorization Waivers Ending**

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 transfers to a lower level of care on and after August 9, 2021, as part of the Emergency Rule 46. These authorization requests will remain in place until further notice.

Blue Cross electively added additional authorization waivers effective August 20, 2021. These additional waivers will be coming to an end on September 30, 2021. Starting October 1, 2021, normal authorization processes will apply.

## **Authorization Waivers Ending Effective August 20 to September 30, 2021**

- 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](http://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](mailto: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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