



Post-Acute Prior Authorization Changes in Texas

Effective Oct. 23, 2020 until Nov. 23, 2020, we're making the following adjustments to our prior authorization requirements for in-network in-patient facilities and post-acute care providers in the El Paso Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).* These temporary changes apply to UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage, Medicaid and Individual and Group Market health plan members:

- **Post-acute prior authorization for admission to AIRs, LTACHs and SNFs:** We're suspending post-acute prior authorization requirements and level of care reviews for admission to Acute Inpatient Rehabilitation facilities (AIRs), Long-Term Acute Care Hospitals (LTACHs) and Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs).
- **Discharge and post-care assistance:** Please email COVID-19dischargeplanning@uhc.com if your team needs assistance with discharge planning or finding post-acute care for patients with complex needs.
- As a reminder, for orders involving COVID-19-related oxygen requests, oxygen can be delivered without prior authorization and does not need to meet current clinical criteria.

After Nov. 23, we may conduct selective retrospective reviews for services rendered during this time period. Admission notification is still required during this time in alignment with the current protocol to support you in arranging post-admission or other support services, if needed. In most cases, notification of inpatient admission is provided to UnitedHealthcare by the hospital through Link or an EDI 278N transmission, which requires no intervention on the part of your hospital staff.

If you have questions, please contact Jerson Cadenas, MD, UnitedHealthcare Market Chief Medical Officer, at jerson_cadenas@uhc.com or 713-418-6379. For the most up-to-date state-specific information surrounding our efforts related to COVID-19, please visit UHCprovider.com/TX.

We will continue to monitor guidance issued by regulatory authorities and keep you posted as the COVID-19 crisis continues to evolve. As dedicated workers on the front lines of this pandemic, we deeply appreciate your efforts to fight this virus. Thank you for all you're doing.

* MSA as defined by the [Office of Management and Budget](#). This announcement applies to the following counties in the El Paso MSA: El Paso and Hudspeth.