



Blue Cross
Blue Shield
of Michigan

A nonprofit corporation and independent licensee
of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Behavioral health information for dates of service before Jan. 1, 2024

For Blue Cross commercial and Medicare Plus BlueSM

January 2024

This document contains information for behavioral health services with dates of service before Jan. 1, 2024.

Note: See the [Blue Cross Behavioral Health](#) page on ereferrals.bcbsm.com for information about services provided on or after Jan. 1, 2024.

When a patient needs behavioral health care, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan may need to approve it first. Keep in mind that authorization is just a clinical review approval, not a guarantee of payment. You'll still need to verify the necessary coverage for this medical benefit.

For both Blue Cross commercial and Medicare Plus BlueSM members

The documents linked here apply to both Blue Cross commercial and Medicare Plus Blue members.

- [Telehealth for behavioral health providers](#) (PDF)
- [Outpatient detoxification and follow-up care protocols for treating substance use disorders](#) (PDF)
- [Holiday closures: How to submit authorization requests for inpatient admissions](#) (PDF)
- [Behavioral health: For mental health and substance use disorders](#) (PDF) - Includes information about care management and utilization management programs
- [Behavioral health screening tools](#)

Utilization management criteria

- To view utilization management criteria, go to the [Services That Need Prior Authorization](#) page on bcbsm.com.
- To view Blue Cross and BCN's medical policies, go to the [Medical Policy Router Search](#) webpage on bcbsm.com.

For behavioral health medical record documentation requirements for outpatient services:

- [Documentation requirements for applied behavior analysis services](#) (PDF)
- [Documentation requirements and privacy regulations for services other than ABA](#) (PDF)



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General resources

- [Behavioral health resources to discuss with your patients](#) (PDF) – For primary care providers
- [Quartet Care Navigation Platform](#) (PDF) – FAQ for behavioral health providers
- [Quartet flyer](#) (PDF) – For behavioral health providers
- [Depression tip sheet](#) (PDF) – For primary care providers
- [HEDIS tip sheet for antidepressant medical management](#) (PDF) – For behavioral health providers
- [Spravato[®]: Purchasing and billing information](#) (PDF)
- [Depression office flyer](#) (PDF)
- [Depression brochure for members](#) (PDF)

See below for additional resources that apply either to Blue Cross commercial or to Medicare Plus Blue members.

For Blue Cross commercial members

Most, but not all, Blue Cross commercial members have their behavioral health coverage managed by New Directions, now known as Lucet.

To determine whether a group's or member's benefits are managed by New Directions or by another organization, contact a behavioral health care manager using the toll-free number on the back of the member's ID card. You can also refer to the Blue Pages Directory chapter of the Blue Cross Commercial Provider Manual for complete contact information.

Through the New Directions WebPass tool, you can request initial prior authorizations and concurrent reviews for inpatient, residential, partial hospital, applied behavior analysis and transcranial magnetic stimulation services, and you can check the status of these requests.

[Michigan's prior authorization law](#)* requires health care providers to submit prior authorization requests electronically for commercial members. Alternate submission methods are allowed in the case of temporary technological problems, such as power or internet outages.

You can access the WebPass tool:

- Through our provider portal:
 1. Log in to our provider portal ([availability.com](#)*).



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2. Click **Payer Spaces** on the menu bar and then click the BCBSM and BCN logo.
 3. Click the New Directions Provider Portal tile on the Applications tab.
- By logging in directly to the [WebPass tool](#)*

If you're experiencing temporary technological problems that prevent you from accessing the WebPass tool, you can submit requests to New Directions by calling 1-800-762-2382.

For additional information about behavioral health services, refer to the Blue Cross Commercial Provider Manual. For information on accessing this and our other provider manuals, see the [Provider Manuals page on bcbsm.com](#).

Other resources:

- [LLPs and LMFTs — Frequently asked questions](#) (PDF)
- [Requirements for providing behavioral health services to Blue Cross commercial members](#) (PDF)
- [Crisis program requirements for behavioral health services](#) (PDF)
- For local rules on autism spectrum disorder / applied behavior analysis, see the [Blue Cross Autism webpage](#).

For Medicare Plus Blue members

The following behavioral health services for Medicare Plus Blue members require authorization through the e-referral system:

- Initial admission of inpatient, partial hospital and intensive outpatient treatment for members who have been admitted to inpatient care or to a treatment program
- Extensions of inpatient, partial hospital, intensive outpatient treatment

Outpatient behavioral health services for Medicare Plus Blue members do not require authorization.

Here are some resources to assist you in managing behavioral health services:

- Assistance in using the e-referral system: [Behavioral Health e-referral User Guide](#) (PDF)
- [Medicare Plus Blue PPO Provider Manual](#) (PDF) — In the "Utilization management" section, look for the subsection titled "Preauthorization of behavioral health services."

You can call Medicare Plus Blue Behavioral Health at 1-888-803-4960 for general assistance with behavioral health services, including:



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- Arranging services or requesting authorization for services
 - Obtaining criteria used to make an authorization decision

*Clicking this link means that you're leaving the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network website. While we recommend this site, we're not responsible for its content.

Availity[®] is an independent company that contracts with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network to offer provider portal and electronic data interchange services.

New Directions Behavioral Health is an independent company that manages authorizations for behavioral health and autism services for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan members who have commercial plans for dates of service on or before Dec. 31, 2023.