

## Medicare Advantage home health care: Clarifications about adding disciplines and substituting services provided by clinicians with lower-level credentials

Effective June 1, 2021, CareCentrix® manages authorizations for home health care services for Medicare Plus Blue<sup>SM</sup> and BCN Advantage<sup>SM</sup> members.

Here are some clarifications on this new program:

- For Medicare Plus Blue members who receive services in Michigan, you don't need to submit requests to add disciplines to existing 30-day episodic authorizations that have already been approved by CareCentrix.

### Notes:

- For Medicare Plus Blue members receiving services outside of Michigan, follow the reimbursement guidelines for your local Blue Cross plan.
- For BCN Advantage members, home health care services use a fee-for-service payment methodology, so you need to submit authorization requests for additional disciplines that haven't been authorized by CareCentrix; see below for additional details.
- For BCN Advantage members, you don't need to update approved authorizations when services are provided by a clinician with a lower-level credential than the clinician who was authorized by CareCentrix. This substitution is allowed as long as the clinician with the lower-level credential is within the same discipline that CareCentrix authorized. For example:
  - A licensed practical nurse can provide services when CareCentrix authorized services to be provided by a registered nurse
  - A physical therapy assistant can provide services when CareCentrix authorized services to be provided by a physical therapist

Note: You also don't need to update authorizations for Medicare Plus Blue members when services are provided by clinicians with lower-level credentials.

See the following table to determine which HCPCS codes are associated to revenue codes by discipline:

Service	HCPSC code	Associated revenue codes
Home health aide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>G0156:</b> Home health aide</li> </ul>	0570, 0571, 0572, 0579
Medical social services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>G0155:</b> Medical social worker</li> </ul>	0560, 0561, 0562
Occupational therapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>G0152:</b> Occupational therapist</li> <li><b>G0158:</b> Occupational therapist assistant</li> <li><b>G0160:</b> Occupational therapist, establish or deliver occupational therapy maintenance program</li> </ul>	0430, 0431, 0432, 0434
Physical therapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>G0151:</b> Physical therapist</li> <li><b>G0157:</b> Physical therapist assistant</li> <li><b>G0159:</b> Physical therapist, establish or delivery physical therapy maintenance program</li> </ul>	0420, 0421, 0422, 0424, 0429
Skilled nursing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>G0299:</b> RN visit</li> <li><b>G0300:</b> Licensed vocational nurse/LPN visit</li> <li><b>G0162:</b> RN, for management and evaluation of the care plan</li> <li><b>G0493:</b> RN clinical assessment, initial</li> <li><b>G0494:</b> LPN, for the observation and assessment of patient condition</li> <li><b>G0495:</b> RN, training / education of a patient or family member</li> <li><b>G0496:</b> Practice nurse, training / education of a patient or family member</li> </ul>	0550, 0551, 0552
Speech therapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>G0153:</b> Speech therapist</li> <li><b>G0161:</b> Speech language pathologist, establish or deliver speech language pathology maintenance program</li> </ul>	0440, 0441, 0442, 0444

We're updating the [Home health care: Frequently asked questions for providers](#) document to reflect these clarifications.

As a reminder, CareCentrix manages prior authorizations for home health care services for Medicare Plus Blue and BCN Advantage members as follows:

- For episodes of care that start on or after June 1, 2021
- For episodes of care that started prior to June 1, 2021, when one of the following occurs on or after June 1: recertification is needed, resumption of care is needed or there's a significant change in condition