


**To:** All Providers Participating in Nebraska Medicaid Program  
**From:** Jeremy Brunssen, Interim Director   
**Date:** April 17, 2020  
**Re:** Medicaid Prior Authorization Temporary Waiver

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Nebraska Medicaid is temporarily waiving certain prior authorization policies to support providers in efficiently meeting patient needs during the COVID-19 emergency. These waiver flexibilities are part of Nebraska's 1135 waiver approved by the federal government.

Effective retroactive to March 1, 2020, through May 31, 2020, Nebraska Medicaid is waiving prior authorizations for the following transfers. However, notification to the managed care organizations or to Nebraska Medicaid for fee-for-service services is still required; medical necessity review will occur concurrently. For acute inpatient admissions, normal notification and utilization management requirements remain in effect. Waiver of prior authorization only applies to transfers to:

- Post-acute LTAC, acute inpatient rehabilitation, or skilled nursing facility;
- Transfer to a new long-term care provider; and
- Observation.

Effective retroactive to March 1, 2020, through May 31, 2020, Nebraska Medicaid is extending prior authorizations for 90 days for any prior authorization that expires between March 1, 2020, and May 31, 2020, unless there is a change in patient clinical status for:

- Elective surgery; and
- Physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy.

Provider Bulletins, such as this one, are posted on the DHHS website at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/pages/Medicaid-Provider-Bulletins.aspx>. Please subscribe to the page to help you stay up to date about new Provider Bulletins.

DHHS has a dedicated COVID-19 web page at: <http://dhhs.ne.gov/pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

The CDC's dedicated page is available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>