

## COVID-19 Update for Hospital Providers

To ease the administrative burden faced by many hospitals, Molina has implemented the following additional changes through the end of May 2020, unless otherwise specified:

### **Authorizations Suspended for COVID-related Inpatient Stays (all Molina programs)**

Effective immediately, Molina will suspend clinical review for authorization and require “notification only” for members admitted to acute care facilities with a diagnosis of actual or suspected COVID-19 diagnosis only. This would not apply to any other type of admission or diagnosis.

**While Molina will not require authorization and clinical information for COVID-19 admissions, hospitals should provide notification of the admission timely (within 3 calendar days). Please also include if the member tested positive for COVID-19 in the notification. Please send notification to 800-594-7404.**

Notification is needed to assist in following patients for transitions of care after discharge.

### **Authorization Suspended for Initial Transfers to Skilled Nursing Facilities**

Effective immediately, Molina will allow initial transfer from the hospital to a Skilled Nursing Facility with “notification only.” This would not apply to transfers to Long Term Acute Care (LTAC) facilities, which will continue to require pre-authorization. Molina will conduct continued stay reviews directly with the Skilled Nursing Facility.

### **Extension of Prior Authorizations**

Molina is extending the “end” date of all approved prior authorizations for elective services to September 1, 2020. No action is required on the provider’s part. Therefore, if you have patients who are not able to get their PT/OT/ST, imaging or elective surgery appointments, J code infusion/injections, they may reschedule up to September 1, 2020. This includes any approved authorizations from Evicore, VSP, or Skygen.

### **Transfers between Hospitals**

Molina immediately implemented the MDHHS policy for “no prior authorization requirement” for transfers between hospitals. Please send notice via fax to our Utilization Management department at 800-594-7404. For more information please see the MDHHS bulletin here:

[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/2025-Hospital-P\\_685053\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/2025-Hospital-P_685053_7.pdf)

### **Observation Stays**

Molina does not require authorization for observation stays.

### **Continued Stays**

Molina has extended its continued stay reviews to no less than 10-day intervals from the former 7-day intervals. Through its continued stay review, Molina can assist with discharge planning to make sure Molina members have the care they need after they leave the hospital.

### **Skilled Nursing Facilities Requesting Temporary Higher Level of Care**

For facilities requesting higher level of care for long term care residents due to COVID-19, a separate authorization for higher level of care is required. The member must be experiencing symptoms and treatment for COVID-19 to qualify for higher level of care. These cases will be reviewed every 3-5 days.

### **Transitions of Care (TOC)**

Molina has suspended proactive outreach to both members and hospital discharge planning staff to reduce the administrative burden for hospital employees. Molina TOC team members are available to assist with our members discharge needs. Please contact us at 888-898-7969 and follow the prompts to reach authorizations/admissions. Molina will continue to contact members after hospital discharge to assist with their needs. It is important for Molina to continue to receive the discharge plan for Medicare members in order to effectively follow up after hospitalization.

### **Suspension of Sequestration (Related to CARES Act) –**

CMS has issued a temporary suspension of the 2% sequestration from May 1, 2020 through Dec. 31, 2020. Molina will implement this new CMS requirement accordingly for those applicable Medicare contracts for the time period that sequestration is suspended. Additional information will be shared upon further regulatory guidance from CMS.

Molina Healthcare is monitoring COVID-19 developments daily. We will update you as things change and encourage you to monitor the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Additional COVID-19 Emergency and Disaster Guidance is published on the CMS website at the following link: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/hpms-memo-covid-information-plans.pdf>

**Thank you for serving Molina members.**

**880 West Long Lake Road - Suite 600 - Troy, MI 48098 - Phone 248.729.0905 – Fax 800.594.7404**