



Authorization and Notification Requirements – Effective August 1, 2025

UCare Medicare Plans | UCare Your Choice | Institutional Special Needs Plans (I-SNP)

General information

UCare requires that providers obtain prior authorization/notification for the services addressed below. This list contains prior authorization (PA) and notification requirements for inpatient and outpatient services, as referenced in the [UCare Provider Manual](#). PA does not guarantee payment. To provide PA or notification, complete the appropriate request form with supporting clinical documentation as needed and submit by fax or email to UCare according to the return information noted on each form.

Upcoming changes to PA requirements are published in the monthly *Health Lines* Provider Newsletters, which are part of the [UCare Provider News Library](#).

The CPT or HCPCS codes listed are included for informational purposes only and are subject to change without notice. Inclusion or exclusion of a code does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement.

For new members identified as being new to Medicare, the Medicare Advantage plan, or a product within the Medicare Advantage plan and on an active course of treatment, authorization requirements will not be applied for a 90-day transition period.

Important information

- Allow up to 14 calendar days for a non-urgent authorization decision.
- All services are subject to member eligibility and benefit coverage.
- For services that require authorization, failing to obtain the authorization in advance may result in a denied claim.
- If you are not able to obtain services in your network, you may submit a network exception request prior to service.
- Inclusion or exclusion of a code listed does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement.
- Providers may request a copy of the criteria used to make a medical necessity determination on [UCare's Authorization page](#).
- Provider of service qualifications, eligibility and licensure requirements must be met to provide services and submit claims to UCare.
- Not all plans offer out of network benefits. Call the UCare Provider Assistance Center at 612-676-3300 or 1-888-531-1493 toll-free for questions related to member eligibility, benefits and network status.

Authorization and notification forms

- [Medical Authorization and Notification Forms](#)
- [Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Authorization and Notification Forms](#)

Prescription drugs and medical injectable drugs

- The [Medical Drug Policy library](#) is a list of medical injectable drugs that require prior authorization and the policies that contain coverage criteria.
- The formulary indicates drugs that are covered under the pharmacy benefit. Formularies are available by clicking the plan name on the [Pharmacy page](#).

Delegated services

[UCare's Authorization](#) page provides information on how to request authorization for the following services. Unless otherwise noted within delegated services, UCare is the contract resource for all authorization service requests, concerns, and questions.

- Chiropractic
- Dental
- Pharmacy
- Genetic Testing

Requirement definitions

Approval authority	UCare, or an organization delegated by UCare, to approve or deny prior authorization requests.
Notification	The process of informing UCare, or delegates of UCare, of a specific medical treatment or service prior to, or within a specified time period after, the start of the treatment or service.
Prior authorization	An approval by an approval authority prior to the delivery of a specific service or treatment. Prior authorization requests require a clinical review by qualified, appropriate professionals. This is to determine if the service or treatment is medically necessary, an eligible, appropriate, expense and that other alternatives have been considered.

Notification only requirements

Service category	Requirements
Inpatient Hospital Notifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Acute Inpatient Medical Admissions- Inpatient Mental Health Admissions	<i>If you are an enrolled provider with the UCare Encounter Alert System (EAS), notification of Inpatient Hospital Admissions is not required.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Notification within 24 hours of admission if you are not enrolled with the UCare EAS system.- Discharge summary to be sent within 72 hours of discharge.- Fax information for Acute Inpatient Medical Admissions to 612-884-2499 or 1-866-610-7215 toll-free.- Fax information for Inpatient Mental Health Admissions to 612-884-2033 or 1-855-260-9710 toll-free.
Inpatient Substance Use Disorder Admission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Notification within 24 hours of admission.- Discharge summary to be sent within 72 hours of discharge.- Fax information to 612-884-2033 or 1-855-260-9710 toll-free.

Authorization requirements

Service category	Requirements	Codes requiring authorization CPT or HCPTC codes	Medical necessity criteria
Air Ambulance, Non-Emergent (fixed wing)	Prior authorization required prior to service. Authorization is not required for emergent air transport.	A0430, A0435	Medicare Benefit Policy Manual: Chapter 10
Acute Inpatient Hospitalization (Medical, Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder)	UCare will contact facilities when a concurrent review is required. Discharge summary required to be sent upon discharge.	Not applicable	InterQual LOC: Acute Adult or LOC: Acute Pediatric: Appropriate subset will be chosen based on the reason and diagnosis for acute inpatient rehabilitation admission
Acute Inpatient Rehabilitation	Prior authorization is required prior to admission. Concurrent review required for additional days. Discharge summary required to be sent upon discharge.	Not applicable	InterQual LOC Rehabilitation: Appropriate subset will be chosen based on reason for acute inpatient rehabilitation admission Medicare Benefit Policy Manual: Chapter 1 - Inpatient Hospital Services Covered Under Part A
Artificial Disc	Prior authorization required prior to service.	22856, 22857, 22858	InterQual CP: Procedures: Artificial Disc Replacement, Cervical InterQual CP: Procedures: Artificial Disc Replacement, Lumbar

Service category	Requirements	Codes requiring authorization CPT or HCPTC codes	Medical necessity criteria
Back (Spine) Surgery	<p>Prior authorization required prior to service.</p> <p>Authorization is not required for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emergency surgery for trauma - Acute transverse myelopathy - Tumors - Cervical and Thoracic Back Surgery 	22533, 22534, 22558, 22585, 22586, 22612, 22614, 22630, 22632, 22633, 22634, 22808, 22810, 22812, 22840, 22841, 22842, 22843, 22844, 27279, 27280, 64628, 64629	<p>InterQual Medicare Procedures: Minimally Invasive Sacroiliac (SI) Joint Fusion</p> <p>Medicare Local Coverage Determination: Minimally Invasive Surgical (MIS) Fusion of the Sacroiliac Joint L36406</p> <p>InterQual Care Plan (CP): Procedures: Neuroablation, Percutaneous</p>
Bariatric Surgery (Gastric Bypass)	<p>Prior authorization required prior to service.</p>	43644, 43645, 43770, 43773, 43775, 43842, 43845, 43846, 43847, 43848	<p>InterQual Medicare Procedures: Bariatric Surgery</p> <p>Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD) Bariatric Surgery for Treatment of Co-Morbid Conditions Related to Morbid Obesity (100.1)</p>

Service category	Requirements	Codes requiring authorization CPT or HCPTC codes	Medical necessity criteria
Cosmetic Procedures Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Abdominoplasty - Blepharoplasty/ Blepharoptosis - Breast reduction surgery - Gynecomastia - Mammoplasty - Panniculectomy - Removal of breast implant(s) or replacement of breast implants - Rhinoplasty or Septorhinoplasty - Skin peel(s) See also: <i>Orthognathic surgery</i>	Prior authorization required prior to service. Note: Photographs are not required to be submitted when requesting authorization for cosmetic or reconstructive surgeries. If UCare determines photographs are needed the Utilization Review Specialist will call to request them. Authorization is not required for breast reconstruction associated with breast cancer.	11960, 15780, 15781, 15782, 15783, 15786, 15787, 15820, 15821, 15822, 15823, 15830, 15832, 15833, 15834, 15835, 15836, 15837, 15838, 15839, 15877, 15878, 15879, 17106, 17107, 17108, 17340, 17360, 17380, 19300, 19316, 19318, 19325, 19328, 21137, 21138, 21139, 21172, 21175, 21179, 21180, 21181, 21182, 21183, 21184, 21208, 21209, 21230, 21248, 21249, 21255, 21256, 21260, 21261, 21263, 21267, 21268, 21270, 21275, 21295, 21296, 30120, 30400, 30410, 30420, 30430, 30435, 30450, 30540, 30545, 30560, 30620, 40500, 67900, 67901, 67902, 67903, 67904, 67906, 67908, 67912, 69090, 69300, 69320	InterQual Medicare Procedures: Appropriate subset will be chosen based on requested procedure Medicare: Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD) or Local Coverage Determination (LCD) will be chosen based on the requested procedure

Service category	Requirements	Codes requiring authorization CPT or HCPTC codes	Medical necessity criteria
Cranial Nerve Stimulation including Vagus Nerve and Hypoglossal Nerve	<p>Prior authorization required prior to service.</p> <p>Vagus Nerve Stimulation mental health diagnosis, send to Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders fax line.</p>	64553, 64568, 64569, 64582	<p>InterQual Medicare Procedures: Hypoglossal Nerve Stimulation for the treatment of Obstructive Sleep Apnea Vagus Nerve Stimulation Peripheral Nerve Stimulation Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS)</p> <p>Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD): Vagus Nerve Stimulation (VNS) (160.18) Deep Brain Stimulation for Essential Tremor and Parkinson's Disease (160.24) Stereotaxic Depth Electrode Implantation (160.5)</p> <p>Local Coverage Determination (LCD): Hypoglossal Nerve Stimulation for the Treatment of Obstructive Sleep Apnea (L38387)</p>

Service category	Requirements	Codes requiring authorization CPT or HCPTC codes	Medical necessity criteria
Durable Medical Equipment (DME) See also: <i>Wheelchairs and Accessories</i> UCare reserves the right to determine rental vs. purchase. Repair or replacement of rental equipment is the provider's responsibility.	Prior authorization required prior to delivery or dispensing of DME items that require authorization. Miscellaneous code E1399 requires authorization if billed charges are greater than \$1500.	E0483 - High Frequency Chest Wall Oscillation System E0652 - Pneumatic Compression Device E0748 - Osteogenesis stimulator, electrical, non-invasive, spinal applications E0749 - Osteogenesis stimulator, electrical, surgically implanted E0764 - Functional Neuromuscular Stimulator (rental only item) E0766 - Electrical Stimulation Device (rental only item) E1399 – Miscellaneous	InterQual Medicare Durable Medical Equipment: Appropriate subset will be chosen based on requested DME item Medicare: Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD) or Local Coverage Determination (LCD) will be chosen based on the requested DME item
Formula or Nutritional Services	Prior authorization required prior to service. Authorization is not required if administered through a feeding tube.	B4102, B4103, B4105, B4149, B4150, B4152, B4153, B4154, B4155, B4157, B4158, B4159, B4160, B4161, B4162	InterQual Medicare: Enteral Nutrition

Service category	Requirements	Codes requiring authorization CPT or HCPTC codes	Medical necessity criteria
Long-Term Acute Care (LTAC)	<p>Prior authorization is required prior to admission.</p> <p>Concurrent review required for additional days.</p> <p>Discharge summary required to be sent upon discharge.</p>	Not applicable	InterQual LOC Long Term Acute Care: Appropriate subset will be chosen based on reason for LTAC admission
Microprocessor Controlled Lower Limb Prosthesis	Prior authorization required prior to service.	L5856, L5857, L5858, L5859, L5930, L5961	InterQual Medicare Procedures: Lower Limb Prostheses
Orthognathic Surgery	<p>Prior authorization required prior to service.</p> <p>Authorization is not required for emergency surgery for trauma.</p>	21121, 21141, 21142, 21143, 21145, 21146, 21147, 21193, 21194, 21195, 21196, 21198	InterQual Care Plan (CP) Procedures: Osteotomy, Anterior Segment, Mandibles Maxillomandibular Advancement Osteotomy, LeFort I Osteotomy Sagittal Split, Mandible Ramus Reconstruction, Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) Bone Augmentation, Mandible
Proton Beam Therapy	Prior authorization required prior to service.	77520, 77522, 77523, 77525	<p>InterQual Medicare Procedures: Proton Beam Therapy</p> <p>Medicare: Local Coverage Determination (LCD): Proton Beam Therapy (L35075)</p>

Service category	Requirements	Codes requiring authorization CPT or HCPTC codes	Medical necessity criteria
Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) or Swing Bed Admission	<p>Prior authorization is required prior to admission.</p> <p>Concurrent review required for additional days.</p> <p>Discharge summary required to be sent upon discharge.</p>	Not applicable	<p>InterQual LOC Subacute or SNF: Appropriate subset will be chosen based on reason for SNF admission</p> <p>Medicare Benefit Policy Manual: Chapter 8 - Coverage of Extended Care (SNF) Services Under Hospital Insurance</p>
Spinal Cord Stimulation	Prior authorization required prior to trial and prior to permanent placement.	63650, 63655, 63663, 63664, 63685	<p>InterQual Medicare Procedures: Spinal Cord Stimulator</p> <p>Medicare: National Coverage Determination (NCD) for Electrical Nerve Stimulators (160.7)</p>
Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation	Prior authorization required prior to service.	90867, 90868, 90869	InterQual BH: Behavioral Health Services Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS)
Transplant Procedures Heart Heart/Lung Hematopoietic Stem Cell Liver Lung Pancreas	<p>Prior Authorization required prior to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluation - Listing <p>Notification required within 24 hours of</p>	<p>Heart: 33945</p> <p>Heart/Lung: 33935</p> <p>Hematopoietic Stem Cell: 38240, 38241</p> <p>Liver: 47135</p>	InterQual Medicare Procedures: Intestinal and multi-visceral Allogeneic Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation Adult Liver Transplantation

Service category	Requirements	Codes requiring authorization CPT or HCPTC codes	Medical necessity criteria
Pancreas/Kidney Pancreatic Islet Cell Small Bowel Small Bowel/Liver Multivisceral	admission for transplant procedure.	Lung – 32851, 32852, 32853, 32854 Pancreas and Pancreas/Kidney: 48554, 50360, 50365 Pancreatic Islet Cell: 48160 Small Bowel, Small Bowel/Liver, Multivisceral: 44136	
Vein Procedures	Prior authorization required prior to service.	36465, 36466, 36468, 36470, 36471, 36473, 36474, 36475, 36476, 36478, 36479, 36482, 36483, 37765, 37766	InterQual Medicare Procedures: Varicose Veins Medicare Local Coverage Determination (LCD): Varicose Veins of the Lower Extremity, Treatment of (L33575)
Wheelchair Accessories – Purchase and Rental Repair or replacement of rental equipment is the DME provider's responsibility. UCare reserves the right to determine rental vs. purchase.	Prior authorization is required before delivering or dispensing accessories or items that require authorization, including new, replacement or repaired accessories. Miscellaneous codes K0108 and K0669 require authorization if billed charges are greater than \$1500.	E0986, E1002, E1003, E1004, E1005, E1006, E1007, E1008, E1009, E1010, E1012, E1030, E2204, E2227, E2228, E2298, E2301, E2310, E2311, E2312, E2321, E2322, E2325, E2327, E2328, E2329, E2330, E2331, E2376, E2609, E2617, K0108, K0669	InterQual Medicare Durable Medical Equipment: Appropriate subset will be chosen based on requested wheelchair item Medicare: Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD) or Local Coverage Determination (LCD) will be chosen based on the requested wheelchair item

Service category	Requirements	Codes requiring authorization CPT or HCPTC codes	Medical necessity criteria
Wheelchair - Rental UCare reserves the right to determine rental vs. purchase.	Prior authorization is required prior to delivery or dispensing power operated vehicles and power wheelchairs for items that require authorization. All months must be authorized.	K0800, K0801, K0802, K0806, K0807, K0808, K0812, K0813, K0814, K0815, K0816, K0820, K0821, K0822, K0823, K0824, K0825, K0826, K0827, K0828, K0829, K0830, K0831, K0835, K0836, K0837, K0838, K0839, K0840, K0841, K0842, K0843, K0848, K0849, K0850, K0851, K0852, K0853, K0854, K0855, K0856, K0857, K0858, K0859, K0860, K0861, K0862, K0863, K0864, K0890, K0891	InterQual Medicare Durable Medical Equipment: Appropriate subset will be chosen based on requested wheelchair Medicare: Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD) or Local Coverage Determination (LCD) will be chosen based on the requested wheelchair
Wheelchair - Purchase UCare reserves the right to determine rental vs. purchase.	Prior authorization is required prior to purchase K0005 - K0007, E1161, all power-operated vehicles and power wheelchairs. See <i>Wheelchair Accessories</i> for purchase, repair and replacement authorization requirements.	K0005 - K0007, E1161, all power-operated vehicles and power wheelchairs	InterQual Medicare Durable Medical Equipment: Appropriate subset will be chosen based on requested wheelchair Medicare: Medicare National Coverage Determination (NCD) or Local Coverage Determination (LCD) will be chosen based on the requested wheelchair item

Contact information

UCare contact	Service area	Phone	Fax	Website or email
Medical Services	Medical Authorizations	1-877-447-4384 toll-free 612-676-6705	612-884-2499	UCare's Medical Services Authorizations page
Clinical Pharmacy Intake	Medical Drug (Non-PAR and MultiPlan Providers)	612-676-6504	612-617-3948	UCare's Pharmacy page
Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services	Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Authorizations	1-833-276-1185 toll-free 612-676-6533	1-855-260-9710 toll-free 612-884-2033	UCare's Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Authorizations page MHSUDservices@ucare.org
Provider Assistance Center (PAC)	Member Eligibility or Benefits and Network Status	1-888-531-1493 toll-free 612-676-3300	N/A	UCare's Provider home page
Delegate contact	Service area	Phone	Fax	Website
Carelon	Genetic Testing	1-833-821-1954	1-844-425-3736	Carelon
DentaQuest	Dental	1-888-260-5152	N/A	DentaQuest
Fulcrum Health	Chiropractic	1-877-886-4941 toll-free	N/A	Fulcrum Health
Navitus	Pharmacy Drug Prior Authorizations	1-833-837-4300 toll-free	1-855-668-8552 toll-free	CoverMyMeds Surescripts