

Provider Bulletin

News and Information



Nov. 13, 2023

2024 Authorization and Notification Requirement Grids Now Available

UCare's 2024 authorization and notification requirements for medical services, mental health and substance use disorder services and medical drugs are now available on the [Authorization page](#) of the UCare website. The 2024 Medical and Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services authorization grids have been combined into one prior authorization and notification grid (separated by product).

The following changes were made to the authorization and notification requirements for UCare's State and Federal Programs (UCare Medicare Plans, UCare Medicare Plans with M Health Fairview and North Memorial, EssentiaCare, UCare Minnesota Senior Health Options, UCare Prepaid Medical Assistance Program, MinnesotaCare, UCare Minnesota Senior Care Plus, UCare Connect, UCare Connect + Medicare and UCare Individual & Family Plans):

Medical Services

- **Acupuncture:** Removed prior authorization requirements.
- **Cosmetic or reconstructive procedures:**
 - Removed prior authorization for mastectomy and ear cartilage graft.
 - Removal of CPT code 19303 for all diagnoses and 21235 for ear cartilage graft.
 - The following codes no longer require prior authorization: 11920, 11921, 11922, 19330, 19340, 19342, 19350, 19371 and 19380.
- **Durable Medical Equipment (DME) purchase:** (UCare Individual & Family Plans, State Public Programs and Medicare)
 - Removed dollar amount (IFP) to align with SPP/Medicare to require auth for E2510, E0483, E0652, E0694, E0764, E0766
 - Updated to "Prior authorization required utilizing code base requirements prior to delivery or dispensing of DME items."
- **DME rental:** Updated to "Prior authorization is required prior to delivery or dispensing power operated vehicles and power wheelchairs. All months must be authorized."
- **Wheelchair rental:** Updated to "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."
- **Wheelchair purchase:** Updated to "Prior authorization is required prior to purchase of all wheelchair bases, except K0001."
- **Wheelchair accessories - purchase & rental:**
 - Removed dollar amount.
 - Updated to "Prior authorization is required before delivering or dispensing accessories or items that require authorization, including new, replacement, or repaired accessories. All months must be authorized."
 - Added codes E0986, E1002, E1003, E1004, E1005, E1006, E1007, E1008, E1009, E1010, E1012, E2227, E2300, E2301, E2312, E2321, E2325, E2327, E2328, E2329, E2330, E2310, E2311, E2331, E2376, E2609 and E2617.
- **Inpatient acute:** Updated to "Notification within 24 hours of admission. Concurrent review required for additional days and discharge summary required to be sent upon discharge."
- **Long-term acute care (LTAC):** Updated to "Notification within 24 hours of admission. Concurrent review required for additional days and discharge summary required to be sent upon discharge."

- **Skilled nursing facility or swing bed:** Updated to “Notification within 24 hours of admission. Concurrent review required for additional days and discharge summary required to be sent upon discharge.”

Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services

- **Adult residential crisis stabilization services:** (Individual & Family Plans, State Public Programs, Duals) Updated to “Notification required beyond threshold of 10 days per admit.”
- **Adult rehabilitative mental health services:** (State Public Programs, Duals) Removed prior authorization requirements for Assessment (H0031) and Treatment Planning (H0032).
- **Intensive outpatient dialectical behavior therapy:** Removed prior authorization requirements (H2019).
- **Children’s residential treatment:** (Individual & Family Plans) Updated to “Notification required within 24 hours of admission. Concurrent review required for additional days and discharge summary required to be sent upon discharge.”
- **Psychiatric residential treatment facilities:** (State Public Programs, Duals) Updated to “Notification required within 24 hours of admission. Concurrent review required for additional days and discharge summary required to be sent upon discharge.”

Medical Drugs

In 2024, Care Continuum will continue to perform medical drug prior authorization reviews on UCare’s behalf for all lines of business.

- Requests can be initiated at Care Continuum via the following methods:
 - Online: Express Path Portal at <https://www.express-path.com/>
 - Fax: 1-877-266-1871
 - Phone: 1-800-818-6747

The grid of medical drugs that require prior authorization, the corresponding criteria and the form to request medical drug authorization are posted on [UCare’s Pharmacy page](#).

Contact UCare’s Provider Assistance Center with questions:

- Phone: 612-676-3300 or 1-888-531-1493
- Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 am - 5 pm