

## Mutual News

December 2024

## Stay Informed with the Provider Manual

The Provider Manual is available at MedMutual.com/Provider > <u>Provider Manual</u>. It is updated quarterly to include the latest policies, procedures and guidelines providers need to work effectively with Medical Mutual.

Sub-sections Revised or Added— Current updates to the Provider Manual include:

- Section 2 Claims Overview: The following section was revised:
  - Coding Instructions for Selected Services and Related Billing Policies and Procedures
- Section 3 Clinical Quality and Health Services Overview: The following sections were revised:
  - Prior Authorization
  - Availability Goals and Accessibility Guidelines
- Section 12 Medicare Advantage Plans and Guidelines: The following sections were revised:
  - General Network Guidelines
  - Advance Beneficiary Notice of Non-Coverage (ABN)
  - Clinical Quality and Health Services Programs, HEDIS and Stars
  - Fraud, Waste and Abuse
  - Offshoring

#### **Contact Us**

The phone number for our Medical Mutual Provider Contracting team is now 1-800-625-2583. This number is being used for all our provider contracting regions.

If you do not know who your Provider Contracting Representative is, you can find the information on the contact us page of MedMutual.com/Provider.

## **General Information**

#### NOTICE OF MATERIAL AMENDMENT TO CONTRACT: New Reimbursement Policies

Effective April 1, 2025, Medical Mutual is implementing the following Reimbursement Policies:

- Facility Billing for Professional Services (Policy Number RP-202504)
- Evaluation and Management Services (Policy Number RP-202505)

To view these policies, visit MedMutual.com/Provider and under the Providers menu select Policies and Standards > Reimbursement Policies.

## Medical Mutual Welcoming New Provider Types into our Network

Medical Mutual is now welcoming Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), Licensed Social Workers (LSW), Licensed Marriage & Family Therapists (LMFT) and Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors (LCDC) into our network. If interested in applying and your Tax ID is already contracted, please complete the Provider Information Form located at www.medmutual.com, Providers, Forms and submit a copy of the standard care agreement to providerpifs@medmutual.com to start the credentialing process. If not currently contracted, please contact provider contracting at BHNetwork@medmutual.com.

## **Medical Policy Updates**

The Corporate Medical Policies (CMPs) developed, revised or retired between Dec. 1, 2023 and Feb. 29, 2024 are outlined in the following charts. CMPs are regularly reviewed, updated, added or withdrawn, and are subject to change. For a complete list of CMPs, please visit MedMutual.com/Provider and select Policies and Standards > Corporate Medical Policies.

Medical Drug CMPs	
CMP Name	Policy Status
Actemra SC	Revised
Aflibercept	Revised
Antagonist	Revised
Arcalyst® (rilonacept)	Revised
Azedra	Revised
Bavencio	Revised
Beovu	Revised
Berinert® (C1 esterase inhibitor [human])	Revised
Bevacizumab_ONCO	Revised
Brineura	Revised

CMP Name	Policy Status
Calcitonin Gene-Related Peptide (CGRP)	Revised
Cerezyme	Revised
Cimzia	Revised
	Revised
Coverage of New and Unproven Drug policy	Revised
Parzalex_SQ	Revised
Eculizumab	Revised
Elelyso	Revised
Elevidys (delandistrogene moxeparvovec-rokl)	Revised
Empaveli Empaveli	Revised
Enspryng	Revised
Epkinly	Revised
Erbitux	Revised
- asenra	Revised
irazyr	Revised
yarro	Revised
Colony Stimulating Factors - Short Acting	Revised
General Oncology	Revised
ilobal PA	Revised
aris	Revised
umya	Revised
mfinzi	Revised
mjudo	Revised
nfliximab	Revised
xempra	Revised
emperli	Revised
albitor	Revised
Kesimpta	Revised
Keytruda	Revised
(isunla (donanemab-azbt)	New
ibtayo	Revised
.oqtorzi	Revised
utathera	Revised
ymphir	

CMP Name	Policy Status
Niktimvo (axatilimab-csfr)	New
Nucala	Revised
Ocrevus Zunovo	New
Opdivo	Revised
Paclitaxel Albumin-Bound	Revised
Pemetrexed	Revised
Piasky	New
Pluvicto	Revised
Poteligeo	Revised
Ranibizumab	Revised
Rituximab IV	Revised
Rybrevant	Revised
Sarclisa	Revised
SCIG	Revised
Siliq	Revised
Simponi _ARIA	Revised
Skyrizi IV	Revised
Site of Care	Revised
Spinraza	Revised
Spravato	Revised
Stelara (ustekinumab)	Revised
Susvimo	Revised
Syfovre	Revised
Synagis	Revised
Takhzyro	Revised
Tecentriq Hybreza	New
Tegsedi	Revised
Tevimbra	Revised
Tezspire	Revised
Tocilizumab IV	Revised
Trastuzumab IV	Revised
Tremfya IV	New
Tremfya SC	Revised

CMP Name	Policy Status
Tremfya SC	Revised
Vabysmo	Revised
Veopoz	Revised
VPRIV	Revised
Vyepti	Revised
Vyleesi	Revised
Xolair	Revised
Yervoy	Revised
Zilretta	Revised

Medical CMPs		
CMP Name	CMP Number	Policy Status
Digestive Enzyme Cartridge (Relizorb)	202017	Revised
Actigraphy	2018-C	Revised
Cryotherapy or RFTherapy for Rhinitis	202016	Revised
Allergy Testing	99005	Revised
Stem Cell Harvesting and Storage	202107	Revised
Laser Therapy for Treatment of Cutaneous Vascular Lesions	200501	Revised
Prolotherapy - Musculoskeletal Conditions	201105	Revised
Next-Generation Sequencing for Detection and Quantification of Lymphoid Cancers	201923	Revised
Bone Mineral Density Studies	94022	Revised
Breast Cancer Screening and Diagnostic Procedures - Breast Ductal Lavage	200211	Revised
In Utero Fetal Surgery	200407	Revised
Irreversible Electroporation (IRE)	202015	Revised
Peripheral Electrical Stimulation to Reduce Tremor (e.g. Cala Trio)	202202	Revised
Transcatheter Mitral Valve Repair (TMVr)	202012	Revised
Vertebral Artery Angioplasty	202104	Revised
High-Frequency Chest Wall Oscillation System and Intrapulmonary Percussive - DME	200508	Revised
Carpal Tunnel, Tendon Sheath or Ligament, Tendon and Trigger Point Injection	200218	Revised
Pneumatic Compression Device - Pneumatic Compression of Trunk and Chest	201621	Revised

Medical CMPs		
CMP Name	CMP Number	Policy Status
Radiofrequency Microtenotomy	2006-D	Revised
LLLT for mucositis in cancer of the head and neck	202206	Revised
Radiofrequency Treatment Pain	201537	Revised
Spinal Cord Stimulation for Treatment of Chronic Pain	200602	Revised
Cosmetic Procedures	201929	Revised
Percutaneous left atrial appendage closure (LAAC) for non-valvular atrial fibrillation	201718	Retired

For a list of services requiring prior approval or considered investigational, please visit MedMutual.com/Provider and select Policies and Standards > Prior Approval & Investigational Services.

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## **Pharmacy**

## **Pharmacy Prior Approval Requirements**

Medical Mutual requires prior approval for the following drugs regardless of whether they are covered under the medical or pharmacy benefits:

- All new specialty drugs
- All new drugs with significant safety, clinical or potential abuse or diversion concerns

This requirement is intended to ensure medications are used safely and will be effective for members. The prior approval criteria for these drugs are detailed in the Global PA/New Drug Prior Approval policy available at <a href="Medmutual.com/Provider">Medmutual.com/Provider</a> on the following pages:

For drugs covered under the medical benefit: Select Policies and Standards > Corporate Medical Policies. This page also includes all current Corporate Medical Policies and information about our prior approval services and Magellan Rx's secure provider portal, a web-based tool at <a href="https://www1.magellanrx.com">www1.magellanrx.com</a> that providers can use to manage prior approval requests for medications.

For drugs covered under the pharmacy benefit: Select Policies and Standards > Prescription Drug Resources, then click the link under <u>Prior Authorization</u> to see the list. This page also includes information about our other coverage managemen t programs (e.g., step therapy, quantity limits) and formularies, as well as a link to the ExpressPAth tool.

## New CMS Measures That Will be Part of the Quality STAR Ratings for 2025

There are two new Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) measures, currently display measures, that will be part of the quality STAR ratings for 2025.

**Concurrent Use of Opioids and Benzodiazepines (COB) -** The concurrent use of opioids and benzodiazepines (BZDs) increases the risk of central nervous system (CNS) and respiratory depression, which could potentially lead to fatal overdose. Compared to patients who are administered opioids alone, individuals with concurrent use of opioids and benzodiazepines have an estimated 5-fold higher risk of overdose.

Tips to prepare your providers and patients.

- Limit prescribing opioid pain medicines with BZDs or other CNS depressants only to patients for whom alternative treatment options are inadequate. If these medicines are prescribed together, limit the dosages and duration of each drug to the minimum possible.
- For your patient taking an opioid and BZD, please consider if prescribing take-home naloxone may be appropriate.

  Prescribing take-home naloxone may be considered to help mitigate the risk of accidental overdose.
- Before discontinuing, taper off BZDs gradually as a sudden withdrawal can produce rebound anxiety, hallucinations, seizures, delirium, tremors, and, very rarely, death. Each person's rate of tapering should be individualized.

**Polypharmacy Use of Multiple Anticholinergic Medications in Older Adults (Poly-ACH) -** Dementia is the 7th leading cause of death worldwide. Anticholinergic medications have been linked to an increased risk for cognitive impairment and dementia in older adults.

Tips to prepare your providers and patients.

• For your older patient receiving multiple medications with strong anticholinergic properties, please review this patient's therapy for concomitant anticholinergic use. The Beers Criteria state that this combination should generally be avoided. Use of more than one medication with anticholinergic properties increases the risk of cognitive decline, delirium, and falls or fractures.

Please share this information with your team in preparation for the coverage year 2025. If you would like more information about the changes, please contact your Provider Contracting Manager.

#### References

- 1. World Health Organization. Dementia. 2023 at: https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/dementia
- 2. Risacher SL et al. Association Between Anticholinergic Medications Use and Cognition, Brain Metabolism, and Brain Atrophy in Cognitively Normal Older Adults. JAMA Neurol. 2016;73(6):721–732. doi:10.1001/jamaneurol.2016.0580
- Coupland CAC et al. Anticholinergic Drug Exposure and the Risk of Dementia: A Nested Case-Control Study. JAMA Internal Medicine. 2019. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2019.0677



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