



FLORIDA MEDICAID

A Division of the Agency for Health Care Administration

Florida Medicaid Health Care Alert

July 14, 2020

Provider Type(s): 1, 9, 10 and 40

Update: Waiver of Prior Authorization Requirements for Hospital Transfers

This provider alert updates and replaces the alert issued on July 13, 2020, entitled: "Waiver of Prior Authorization Requirements for Hospital Transfers".

The Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) is committed to ensuring that Medicaid recipients diagnosed with the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) receive all the care needed to address their symptoms. To facilitate prompt hospital discharges and to ensure adequate inpatient hospital capacity in response to COVID-19, Florida Medicaid is waiving service authorization requirements prior to admission for hospital transfers, including:

- inter-facility transfers;
- transfers to a long-term care hospital; and
- transfers to a nursing facility.

In addition, to facilitate non-emergency transportation services that may be needed to aid in these transfers, the Agency is waiving the need for prior authorization for non-emergency ambulance transportation services **for hospital transfer scenarios as described above**. This change applies to the fee-for-service and managed care delivery system. These provisions apply to enrollees being transferred from a hospital regardless of diagnosis (i.e., COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients). The Agency will continue this flexibility until further notice.

Statewide Medicaid Managed Care

- The waiver of prior authorization applies whether the receiving facility is a participating provider or non-participating provider in the health plan's network.
- Health plans may require the receiving facility to notify the plan of the admission within forty-eight (48) hours of the admission. At that point, the plan may request additional clinical

information to begin **concurrent/continued stay reviews** to facilitate care coordination and discharge planning.

Fee-for-Service Delivery System

- For inter-facility hospital transfers (hospital to hospital), the receiving hospital facility will need to request a simple, administrative prior authorization through [eQHealth Solutions](#) to ensure streamlined reimbursement. Clinical reviews will not take place at this time.

For more information on the Agency's response to COVID-19, please visit:
http://ahca.myflorida.com/covid-19_alerts.shtml.

QUESTIONS? FLMedicaidManagedCare@ahca.myflorida.com

COMPLAINTS OR ISSUES? ON LINE <http://ahca.myflorida.com/Medicaid/complaints/> | **CALL** 1-877-254-1055

The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to its mission of providing "Better Health Care for All Floridians." The Agency administers Florida's Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 48,000 health care facilities and 47 health maintenance organizations, and publishes health care data and statistics at www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov. Additional information about Agency initiatives is available via [Facebook \(AHCAFlorida\)](#), [Twitter \(@AHCA_FL\)](#) and [YouTube\(/AHCAFlorida\)](#).

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