



RON DESANTIS  
GOVERNOR

MARY C. MAYHEW  
SECRETARY

June 12, 2020

## Statewide Medicaid Managed Care (SMMC) Policy Transmittal: 2020-35

Applicable to the **2018-2023 SMMC contract benefits** for:

- Managed Medical Assistance (MMA) and MMA Specialty
- Long-Term Care (LTC)
- Dental

### Re: COVID-19 State of Emergency: Prior Authorization Reinstatement

The Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) previously required managed care plans to establish certain provider flexibilities to help respond to the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-20). As the State commences with the reopening, the Agency will evaluate each flexibility that was enacted to determine the potential end date. The purpose of this policy transmittal is to communicate the details on the reinstatement of prior authorization for certain Medicaid-covered services.

Consistent with [Phase 2](#) of Governor Ron DeSantis' *Plan for Florida's Recovery*, the managed care plan **may reinstate prior authorization requirements** for the following Medicaid services that were previously waived in response to COVID-19 (see Policy Transmittal: 2020-15):

- Hospital services (including long-term care hospitals)
- Nursing facility services
- Physician services
- Advanced practice registered nursing services
- Physician assistant services
- Home health services
- Ambulance transportation; and
- Durable medical equipment and supplies.

This change is effective for dates of service on or after **June 19, 2020**, when prior authorization is required for the service. For inpatient hospital services, health plans may reinstate prior authorization requirements for admissions occurring on or after June 19, 2020. The managed care plan may also reinstate the prior authorization and claims payment prohibitions outlined in Policy Transmittal: 2020- 24 for the services listed above.

### Behavioral Health Exception

The managed care plan must continue to waive prior authorization requirements and services limits (frequency and duration) for behavioral health services covered under the Medicaid program. This includes community behavioral health services, inpatient behavioral health services, and targeted case management services. The managed care plan must continue this flexibility until further notice. In addition, the requirements outlined in Policy Transmittal: 2020 – 24 continue to apply for behavioral health services until further notice.



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If you have questions or concerns, please contact your contract manager at (850) 412-4004.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shevaun Harris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "S".

Shevaun Harris  
Assistant Deputy Secretary for  
Medicaid Policy and Quality

SH/dvp