



## Reminder: No Referrals Needed for Advantage MD HMO Members

**Effective Date:** Jan. 1, 2026

**Health Plans Affected:** Advantage MD

**Type of Change:** Referrals

### Explanation of Change:

Recently, Johns Hopkins Health Plans has learned of an issue concerning our Advantage MD HMO members being denied services or being balance billed because the members did not obtain a PCP referral for specialty services. While most HMO plans require a referral, **Advantage MD's HMO plans do not require one.**

### Action Requested

Please inform your staff and back offices that Advantage MD HMO health plans **do not require a referral from the PCP for the member to receive specialty care.**

### Reference: [Advantage MD Provider Manual](#)

- **Advantage MD HMO, Tribute (HMO) and Select (HMO) Plans**  
Referrals are not required.  
There is no out-of-network coverage for the HMO plans.
- **Advantage MD PPO, Plus (PPO), Primary (PPO) & Group Plans**  
Referrals are not required.  
PPO members may use out-of-network benefits to see an out-of-network provider.

Thank you for your attention to this issue as we work to provide our Advantage MD members with quality, timely care.