

Clarification: Requesting Prior Authorization From eviCore for Wound Care

Effective Date: March 16, 2023

Health Plans Affected: Johns Hopkins Advantage MD, Priority Partners

Type of Change: Process

Explanation of Change:

Johns Hopkins HealthCare (JHHC) and eviCore healthcare would like to provide some tips for physical therapists and occupational therapists requesting prior authorization for wound care codes on [the eviCore prior authorization code list](#).* NOTE: eviCore does not review requests for wound care supplied by specialties other than those listed above.

eviCore requires prior authorization for any PT or OT services beyond an initial evaluation for Priority Partners and after the 12th visit for Advantage MD. Wound debridement codes 97597 and 97598 do not require authorization for the first 10 services, when performed by any provider **other than** a physical or occupational therapist. Any wound debridement services beyond 10 provided by a specialist other than a physical therapist or occupational therapist do require authorization through JHHC. Prior authorization decisions consider the condition, complexity, severity and functional status of the patient. The prior authorization process entails reporting of key clinical information to allow eviCore to approve medically necessary care based on the individual patient's needs.

Wound Care Request Tips

- To address the individual needs of the patient, eviCore approves visits that will allow providers to vary the interventions used at each visit. Before requesting prior authorization, assess your patient and create a plan of care.
- Please use the [clinical worksheets**](#) as a guide to help answer questions during the clinical collection process. The clinical worksheet is specific to conditions and designed to assist with the submission of the patient and provider information for medical necessity review. These worksheets should be completed by the provider during the initial consultation/evaluation and treatment planning, collecting the clinical information to allow for ease of submission.
 - The clinical worksheets, which are located on website [eviCore.com**](#), can also be found [here**](#).
- EviCore will not approve specific therapy modality codes. Rather, they approve a course of therapy treatment that could include any of the modalities listed as requiring authorization.
- When submitting a request for prior authorization for wound care (example CPT codes 97597 and 97598), please remember to select MSMPT or MSMOT in place of an individual CPT code for services even if the planned service is a single modality (see Requested Service + Diagnosis example below).
 - MSMPT and MSMOT are included in the array of CPT codes that require prior authorization.

- You can [download the list](#)** of physical therapy and occupational therapy CPT codes that require prior authorization through eviCore. Any CPT codes included on the eviCore PT/OT list requiring prior authorization are payable under an approved MSMPT or MSMOT authorization.
- When planning to bill a CPT code included on the eviCore prior authorization list other than wound care, chiropractors submitting a prior authorization request should enter it as a MSMPT request. Remember, codes for chiropractic manipulations are not reviewed by eviCore.
- To improve prompt claim payment processing, it is important to submit your claim for initial evaluation with the appropriate initial evaluation code. Claims processors have been instructed to look for the initial evaluation code to allow claim payment for that evaluation without specific authorization. All services beyond the initial evaluation are subject to the prior authorization requirement.

eviCore Web Portal

The quickest, easiest way to obtain prior authorization approval is via eviCore's web portal. If medical necessity criteria are met, requests submitted via the portal have a high likelihood of obtaining a real-time approval. Prior authorization request worksheets are located under the "Resources" tab on evicore.com**.

eviCore offers complimentary web portal training sessions specifically for physical therapists, occupational therapists and chiropractors. All online training sessions are free and last approximately one hour.

To participate:

1. Go to evicore.webex.com
2. Select "WebEx Training" on the left menu option.
3. Click the "Upcoming" Tab. Enter "Therapy Provider Portal Training" in the search bar.
4. Click "Register" next to the session you wish to attend.
5. Enter the registration information.

Please keep the registration email so you will have the link to the web conference and the call-in number for the session in which you will be participating. You will also have an option to add the session to your calendar.

For more information, call eviCore at 800-646-0418 (Option 2), or email them at portal.support@eviCore.com.

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