

Preauthorization requirements

AmeriHealth Administrators GeoBlue Pennsylvania Commercial

The following levels of care require prior authorization:

All levels of care including:

- Inpatient for behavioral health, substance use and detoxification
- Residential treatment for behavioral health and substance use
- Partial hospitalization for behavioral health and substance use
- Intensive outpatient for behavioral health and substance use
- Psychological testing
- Outpatient electroconvulsive therapy (ECT)
- Applied behavior analysis (ABA) – Dependent on the individual plan
- Transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS)

Providers may also submit records post-discharge for a medical necessity review.

Outpatient counseling and psychiatric services from a psychiatrist do not need preauthorization. Preauthorization is needed only when it is for one of the non-traditional outpatient services listed above.

For those times when preauthorization is required, it should be obtained before services begin. Preauthorization is also necessary for services to continue.

When a provider asks Magellan Healthcare, Inc. (Magellan) to authorize services, the provider will complete an assessment and share information including:

- Diagnosis
- Current symptoms
- Events that led to an admission
- Thoughts of self-harm or harm to others
- Level of function and the impact on daily living
- Medical and behavioral health history
- Alcohol and/or drug use and any treatments
- Current medicines
- Treatment plan while getting care
- Discharge plans, including coordination of care with providers

Once Magellan receives the clinical information from the provider, Magellan will use one of the following clinical care guidelines below to make a determination:

- Magellan Healthcare proprietary guidelines
- MCG Guidelines®
- American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) for substance use disorder requests

Magellan will respond to the requesting provider based on the urgency of the request.

If you have questions, please contact Magellan’s Clinical Operations staff at:

- AmeriHealth Administrators GeoBlue: 1-800-778-2119