



AmeriHealth Caritas
District of Columbia

To: AmeriHealth Caritas DC Providers

Date: June 4, 2025

Subject: Reminder: Site of Care Policy for Outpatient Therapy Services

Summary: This is a reminder that our Site of Care Policy for outpatient physical, occupational, and speech therapy services, established October 22, 2020, remains in effect.

Under this policy, *when these services are requested to be performed in an Outpatient Hospital setting*, prior authorization is required to determine the medical necessity of that site of care. Please ensure that all necessary authorizations are obtained before services are rendered to prevent delays in claims processing and reimbursement.

Key Policy Details:

- **Effective Date:** October 22, 2020
- **Applies to:** Outpatient physical, occupational, and speech therapy
- **Setting Impacted:** Outpatient hospital facilities
- **Requirement:** Prior authorization is required before delivering services

For full details on the policy and authorization procedures, please reference the original communication below. Thank you for your attention to this policy and for your continued commitment to high-quality care for our enrollees.

Dear Provider,

To help ensure that services are provided in the most clinically appropriate setting/site of care, and that the interdisciplinary rehabilitation goals for physical, occupational, and speech therapy (PT/OT/ST) are met, prior authorization is required to determine the medical necessity of PT/OT/ST services furnished to adults 21 or older in the outpatient hospital setting.

The prior authorization process is intended to determine whether there is sufficient medical evidence of one of the following conditions (or as otherwise required by state law, regulation, state Medicaid contract, or provider contract):

1. Clinical complexity requires skilled practitioner services or oversight for safe and effective treatment because the member needs immediate access to hospital specific services due to risk of sudden life-threatening condition. Examples include but are not limited to:
 - a. Acute mental status changes;
 - b. Oral anticoagulation therapy with a history of falls or impaired balance;
 - c. Treatment for major cardiac or thromboembolic events;

- d. Treatment for severe/significant burns;
 - e. Treatment immediately following an amputation.
- 2. Physical, occupational, or speech therapy can only be performed at an outpatient hospital setting because the patient's physical limitations require specialized equipment only accessible at a hospital outpatient facility and clinically appropriate alternative services cannot be provided at a free-standing facility or in-home setting

Limitations: None.

Questions: If you have questions about this communication, please contact your Provider Account Executive or the Provider Services department at 202-408-2237.

Sincerely,
AmeriHealth Caritas DC