

December 2017

Hospice codes to require prior authorization

Summary: Effective April 1, 2018, hospice codes will require prior authorization (PA).

What this means to me

Hospice codes will require PA, and all requests must be reviewed by Healthy Blue for PA dates of service beginning on or after April 1, 2018.

What is the impact of this change?

Healthy Blue requires PA for hospice codes effective beginning April 1, 2018. Please refer to the provider self-service tool for detailed authorization requirements. Go to **<https://providers.healthybluelo.com>**. Under *Prior Authorization & Claims*, select **Prior Authorization Lookup Tool (PLUTO)**.

Noncompliance with the new requirements may result in denied claims. PA requirements will be added to the following codes:

- Q5001 — Hospice or home health care provided in patient's home/residence
- Q5002 — Hospice or home health care provided in assisted living facility
- Q5003 — Hospice care provided in nursing long-term care facility or nonskilled
- Q5004 — Hospice care provided in skilled nursing facility
- Q5005 — Hospice care provided in inpatient hospital
- Q5006 — Hospice care provided in inpatient hospice facility
- Q5007 — Hospice care provided in long-term care facility
- Q5008 — Hospice care provided in inpatient psychiatric facility
- Q5009 — Hospice or home health care provided in place not otherwise specified
- Q5010 — Hospice home care provided in a hospice facility

Please use one of the following methods to request PA:

- Phone: **1-844-521-6942**
- Fax: **1-888-822-5595**
- Web: **<https://www.Availity.com>**

Federal and state law, as well as state contract language including definitions and specific contract provisions/exclusions, take precedence over these PA rules and must be considered first when determining coverage.

What if I need assistance?

If you have questions about this communication or need assistance with any other item, call Provider Services at **1-844-521-6942**.

The information in this bulletin may be an update or change to your provider manual. Find the most current manual at:

<https://providers.healthybluelo.com>

Healthy Blue is the trade name of Community Care Health Plan of Louisiana, Inc., an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

BLA-NL-0030-17 December 2017