



Preauthorization of Medical Care

All preauthorization review services are provided by Sedgwick. The following provides a list of treatments and services that require pre-authorization. However, any specialist contracted with BlackStone may submit a treatment plan for preauthorization. If the treatment plan contains any of the following services and said plan is preauthorized, the specialist will not be required to submit separate requests for services as outlined below (completion dates are required for preauthorization):

1. In-patient hospital admissions including the principal scheduled procedure(s) and the length of stay;
2. Outpatient surgical or ambulatory surgical services;
3. Spinal surgery, as provided by Texas Labor Code §408.026;
4. All psychological testing and psychotherapy, repeat interviews, and biofeedback; except when any service is part of a preauthorized or exempt rehabilitation program;
5. All external and implantable bone growth stimulators;
6. All chemonucleolysis;
7. All subsequent myelograms, discograms, or surface electromyograms;
8. Unless otherwise specified, repeat individual diagnostic study, with a fee established in the current Medical Fee Guideline of greater than \$1,000 or documentation of procedure (DOP); or without a reimbursement rate established in the current Medical Fee Guideline
9. Work hardening and work conditioning services provided in a facility that has been approved for exemption by the Division;
10. Rehabilitation programs to include (a) outpatient medical rehabilitation and (b) chronic pain management/interdisciplinary pain rehabilitation;
11. All durable medical equipment (DME) in excess of \$500 per item (either purchase or expected cumulative rental) and all transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulator (TENS) units;
12. Nursing home, convalescent, residential, and all home health care services and treatments;
13. Chemical dependency or weight loss programs;
14. Any investigational or experimental service or device for which there is early, developing scientific or clinical evidence demonstrating the potential efficacy of the treatment, service, or device but that is not yet broadly accepted as the prevailing standard of care; and

15. Physical and occupational therapy services which are those listed in the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) Level 1 code range for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, but limited to: (a) modalities, both supervised and constant attendance; (b) therapeutic procedures, excluding work hardening and work conditioning; and (c) other procedures, limited to the unlisted physical medicine and rehabilitation procedure code. **NOTE:** Preauthorization is not required for the first 12 visits or 4 weeks, whichever occurs first, of physical or occupational therapy following the evaluation when such treatment is rendered within the first three weeks immediately following the date of injury. Preauthorization is not required for the first 20 visits following surgical intervention related to the compensable injury.
16. Any chiropractic manipulations or modalities and must be limited to musculoskeletal spine injuries and require preauthorization.
17. Treatments and services that exceed or are not addressed by the BlackStone adopted treatment guidelines or protocols and are not contained in a treatment plan previously preauthorized.
18. Any compound drug or N Status Drug
19. If you are submitting a request for pre-authorization for a treatment plan, the following must be included (in addition to the standard documents):
 1. Current diagnosis code(s)
 2. Reference to evidence-based treatment guidelines
 3. A list of all recommended or anticipated diagnostics
 4. A list of all recommended or anticipated physical or occupational therapy; including the number of sessions
 5. A list of all treatment recommendations including office visits, prescriptions or other general medical care no otherwise outlined
 6. Length of time of the treatment plan must not be more than 60 days

In the event the diagnosis changes and the treatment plan is no longer valid, the requesting provider can either submit a new treatment plan or individual pre-authorization request if applicable.

Cases are referred to Sedgwick UR department in writing through our centralized UR facsimile line 877-922-7236. The Sedgwick office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central Standard Time.