



PROVIDER ALERT

Entering Backdated Authorizations: Update

April 26, 2021

Target Audience: All Providers

Beginning May 1, 2021, and forward, providers will be able to backdate authorizations by a maximum of **20 calendar days**. On December 21, 2020, Optum Maryland [communicated to providers](#) that the period to enter authorizations backdated to July 1, 2020, would end on **April 30, 2021**. This reflects a change since the prior December 21 communication stated authorizations could be backdated by 14 days.

As we approach the cut-off date of April 30, please note the following important points:

- Providers are encouraged to submit authorizations prior to rendering the service
- Knowing that this is not always possible, there will be a maximum retro-authorization period of 20 calendar days
- Providers continue to assume the risk that an authorization entered after the date of service may be denied because of medical necessity, or ineligibility

For acute levels of care, there has been no change in existing processes and the [standard authorization timeframes](#) continue to apply.

If your auto-authorizations for outpatient have “pended authorizations”, this has generally occurred because of overlapping date spans. To avoid problems with limits on backdating, it will be best to proceed as if the pended authorization requests do not exist, and to submit new authorization requests that start after the end date of the last approved authorization to cover any Date of Service (DOS) without approved authorizations on file.

The only exception is if you have pended authorizations that cover gaps that are shorter than 180 days in between 2 already approved authorizations. In those cases, please submit an Authorization Correction Form immediately to modify the start date of the pended authorization so that it does not overlap with the approved authorizations on file.

Authorization correction requests received after April 30 will not be able to backdate beyond 20 days. Once the date is modified, the authorization will approve if there are no other issues.

Pended Authorization Example:

SR ID	Status	Begin Date	End Date	Comments
111111	Approved	07/01/2020	12/27/2020	
222222	Pended	08/01/2020	01/28/2021	Pended due to overlap of begin date 08/01/2020 with end date of auth 111111 of 12/27/2020
333333	Approved	01/29/2021	07/24/2021	

In this example, the provider would submit an authorization correction request for SR ID 222222 to change the start date to 12/28/2020.

If you have questions or concerns about the information contained in this alert, please contact customer service at 1-800-888-1965.

Thank you,

Optum Maryland Team

Please visit our website at maryland.optum.com for provider resources, online training, and more information.