



Prior Authorization for Outpatient Injectable Chemotherapy

Effective Feb. 1, 2017, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan in New York requires prior authorization for injectable chemotherapy – including intravenous, intravesical and intrathecal – when it is administered in an outpatient setting for a cancer diagnosis for Medicaid Managed Care (MMC), Child Health Plus (CHPlus), Health and Recovery Plan (HARP) otherwise known as Wellness4Me, and Essential Plan members. UnitedHealthcare Dual Complete® (Medicare Advantage plan), UnitedHealthcare Dual Advantage (Medicaid Advantage) and Managed Long Term Care (UnitedHealthcare Personal Assist) members are excluded from this requirement. The goal of a prior authorization requirement is to improve the quality of care while reducing service denials for UnitedHealthcare Community Plan members undergoing cancer treatment.

To help ensure our member benefit plans are medically appropriate, we regularly evaluate our medical policies, clinical programs and health benefits based on the latest scientific evidence and specialty society guidance. Prior authorization is another measure to improve care experiences, outcomes and the total cost of care for UnitedHealthcare Community Plan members.

UnitedHealthcare uses National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) guidelines to review prior authorization requests and claims for chemotherapy drugs administered in an outpatient setting. NCCN provides independent recommendations for evidence-based cancer treatment. More information is available at nccn.org.

How to Request Prior Authorization

To submit an online request for prior authorization for injectable chemotherapy, log in to UnitedHealthcareOnline.com. You will be re-directed to Link where you will select the UnitedHealthcare Online.com tile. Then click on Notifications / Prior Authorizations > Oncology Authorization Submission and Status > Submit or Look Up Chemotherapy Prior Authorization Request.

Please complete all prior authorizations online. If you have questions or need assistance with your online request, please call 866-889-8054, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Additional program information is available on UnitedHealthcareOnline.com > Clinician Resources > Oncology > Chemotherapy Prior Authorization Program or click [Chemotherapy Prior Authorization Information](#).

How Prior Authorization Supports Care Providers and their Staff

- All eligible NCCN-recommended chemotherapy regimens are displayed during the prior authorization process;
- The submission process allows physicians to submit clinical information for members who have medical contraindications to an NCCN-recommended regimen.
- **To expedite the review process, please submit relevant clinical details when requesting prior authorization.** You can submit clinical information (i.e., a brief description of why a certain chemotherapy agent cannot be given) and will be able to upload relevant documentation for your request during the submission process.

- Our data shows a reduction in claims being denied after treatment was rendered with the prior authorization in place; and
- Reviews are performed by medical oncologists.

Authorizations that follow NCCN regimens will be approved at the time of the request. Care providers will receive a response to requests for pediatric chemotherapy regimens, rare cancers, or chemotherapy regimens that are not NCCN-recommended within three to five days if the necessary supporting documentation is provided at the time of the prior authorization request.

Injectable Chemotherapy Drugs that Require Prior Authorization

- Chemotherapy injectable drugs (J9000 - J9999), Leucovorin (J0640) and Levoleucovorin (J0641)
- Chemotherapy injectable drugs that have a Q code
- Chemotherapy injectable drugs that have not yet received an assigned code and will be billed under a miscellaneous Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code
- All outpatient injectable chemotherapy drugs started February 1, 2017, or later

If you add a new injectable chemotherapy drug to a regimen, a new prior authorization request is required.

Prior Authorization Is NOT required for the following:

- Radio-therapeutic agents (i.e., Zevalin and Xofigo)
- Oral chemotherapy drugs, which are covered under a member's pharmacy benefit plan
- Supportive care injectable drugs
- Use of the chemotherapy drugs for a non-cancer diagnosis

If a member of UnitedHealthcare Community Plan in New York receives injectable chemotherapy drugs in an outpatient setting November 1, 2016 through January 31, 2017 you do NOT need to submit a prior authorization until a new chemotherapy drug will be administered to the member. We will authorize the chemotherapy regimen the member was receiving prior to February 1, 2017 and the authorization will be effective until January 31, 2018.

If you have questions, please email UnitedOncology@uhc.com. Thank you.