



Prior Authorization for Outpatient Injectable Chemotherapy and Colony-Stimulating Factors

UnitedHealthcare Community Plan in Tennessee began requiring prior authorization for injectable chemotherapy – including intravenous, intravesical and intrathecal – when it is administered in an outpatient setting for a cancer diagnosis in June 2016. The goal of the prior authorization requirement is to improve the quality of care while reducing service denials for UnitedHealthcare Community Plan members undergoing cancer treatment.

Starting Oct. 1, 2017, colony-stimulating factors administered to patients with a cancer diagnosis in the outpatient setting also require prior authorization. This requirement is applicable to all members that currently require prior authorization for outpatient injectable chemotherapy.¹

Our member benefit plans require medically appropriate care, so we regularly evaluate our medical policies, clinical programs and health benefits based on the latest scientific evidence and specialty society guidance. Requiring prior authorization for certain medical services is one step we are taking in support of the Triple Aim 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, go to **UHCprovider.com**.

- Sign in to Link by clicking on the Link button in the top right corner of UHCprovider.com. Use your Optum ID and select the Prior Authorization and Notification app.
- If you don't have an Optum ID, click the New User button in the top right corner of UHCprovider.com.

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 UHCprovider.com > Prior Authorization and Notification Resources > Oncology > Prior Authorization for Outpatient Injectable Chemotherapy and Colony-Stimulating Factors.

How this Program 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.
- Claim denials after treatment are reduced; and
- Reviews are performed by medical oncologists in almost all instances.

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 May 1, 2016, or later

Colony stimulating factors that require prior authorization as of Oct. 1, 2017:

- J1442 filgrastim (Neupogen)
- J1447 tbo-filgrastim (Granix)
- J2505 pegfilgrastim (Neulasta)
- J2820 sargramostim (Leukine)
- Q5101 filgrastim, bio similar (Zarxio)

If you add a new injectable chemotherapy drug or colony stimulating factor 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
- Use of the chemotherapy drugs for a non-cancer diagnosis

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

Footnote

1. If a member received a colony-stimulating factor in an outpatient setting for a cancer diagnosis between July 1, 2017 and Sept. 30, 2017, you do not need to submit a prior authorization until a new chemotherapy drug or colony-stimulating factor will be administered to the member. We'll authorize the colony-stimulating factor that the member was receiving during the July through September 2017 timeframe, and the authorization will be effective until the end of the chemotherapy regimen approval date.