



THE PRESCRIBER e-LETTER

Prior Authorization Requirements for Hospital Outpatient Drugs

Currently, MassHealth does not require prior authorization (PA) for hospital outpatient drugs, unless listed on the Adjudicated Payment Amount per Discharge (APAD) and Adjudicated Payment per Episode of Care (APEC) carve-out drugs list.

Effective January 1, 2026, certain drugs billed through the hospital outpatient setting for MassHealth fee-for-service/primary care clinician/primary care accountable care organization (FFS/PCC/PCACO) members will require PA as noted on the MassHealth Drug List.

PA will not be required for drugs billed in the following settings unless on the APAD/APEC carve-out drug list: emergency, trauma, and urgent acute hospital outpatient settings or the hospital inpatient setting.

PA requests for acute hospital outpatient drugs that will require PA beginning January 1, 2026, may be submitted ahead of time. PA requests should be submitted to the appropriate plan for review and approval before administration.

Please refer to the [MassHealth Drug List](#) for drug specific PA requirements and PA forms.

The upcoming [Acute Outpatient Hospital Subchapter 6](#) will note HCPCS codes that will require PA beginning January 1, 2026.

The Prescriber e-Letter is an update designed to enhance the transparency and efficiency of the MassHealth drug prior-authorization (PA) process and the MassHealth Drug List. Each issue highlights key clinical information and updates to the MassHealth Drug List. The Prescriber E-Letter was prepared by the MassHealth Drug Utilization Review Program, the MassHealth Pharmacy Program.