



June 20, 2018

Dear Provider,

Effective immediately--Initial evaluations will no longer require prior authorization (procedure codes 92521, 92522, 92523, 92524, 92610, 97161, 97162, 97163, 97165, 97166, and 97167); however, documentation kept in the client's record must include a signed and dated prescribing provider's order for the evaluation, support a medical need for the therapy evaluation (THSteps exam identifying the need for therapy services), a valid hearing screen for speech therapy request, and should be submitted to CCHP when therapy treatment is requested. A therapy evaluation is considered current when it is performed within 60 days before the prior authorization request is received.

To complete the prior authorization process by paper, the attending specialist and/or PCP must complete and submit the prior authorization requirements documentation through fax, online portal, or mail, and must maintain a copy of the prior authorization request and all submitted documentation in the client's medical record at the therapy provider's place of business. For acute therapy requests, this may be submitted by the servicing provider.

To avoid unnecessary denials, the prescribing provider must provide correct and complete information, including documentation of medical necessity for the service(s) requested. The prescribing provider must maintain documentation of medical necessity in the client's medical record. CCHP may request additional information to clarify or complete a pending authorization request.

Therapy services, regardless of place or provider, occurring after the initial evaluation, require prior authorization. Providers will need to continue to verify member eligibility and coverage per the TMPPM and Fee Schedule at the time initial evaluation services are rendered. Our online prior authorization look-up will be updated to reflect this change. Additionally, CCHP will be modifying our therapy authorization process and will distribute once available. If you have any questions, please e-mail [CCHPPriorauthorizations@cookchildrens.org](mailto:CCHPPriorauthorizations@cookchildrens.org)

Regards,

Cook Children's Health Plan

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