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Memorandum

To: Behavior rehabilitation service (BRS) program providers and prior authorization (PA) requesters

From: Rusha Grinstead, Medicaid Children & Family Policy manager and Holly Heiberg, Medicaid Policy director

Date: Sept. 28, 2026

Subject: Single standard prior authorization request process to begin Nov. 1, 2026

Effective Nov. 1, 2026, Oregon Health Authority (OHA) will:

- End the BRS preliminary, retroactive and reauthorization processes, and
- Only process BRS standard prior authorization requests.

OHA has also moved from a prior authorization (PA) review timeline of 10 business days to 7 calendar days.

- If OHA needs more information to process a request, OHA can pend the request for another 14 calendar days.
- This allows the requester time to send additional information for consideration.

Federal Medicaid regulations do not permit OHA to make payment for services provided before the date of prior authorization.

Why is this happening?

These changes will align the BRS program with:

- The federal PA standards for all Medicaid-covered services in the Interoperability and Prior Authorization final rule (CMS-0057-F). Oregon has an extension to implement these standards effective Dec. 31, 2026;
- Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) for Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) program, [OAR 410-151](#)) and the [EPSDT Provider Guide](#); and
- Payment authorization requirements in [OAR 410-120-1320](#).

This change will also:

- Remove confusion related to the current multiple PA processes and directions associated with each PA type,
- Support faster PA review turnaround time, and
- Support transitioning BRS PAs into the Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS). MMIS only supports the standard 7-day review process.

What should you do?

After Oct. 31, 2026, submit only standard (not retroactive, preliminary, or reauthorization) PA requests.

Questions?

If you have any questions about this announcement, please email BHMC@oha.oregon.gov or call 503-979-8354.

Thank you for your continued support of the Oregon Health Plan and the services you provide to our members.