

# Special Bulletin

For professional and facility providers

March 06, 2023

## Prior Authorization Soon Required For SOC Infusion Drugs Included In FEP

Highmark will be implementing a change in coverage for certain infusion drugs for members included in Federal Employee Program (FEP) groups. Providers will need to obtain prior authorization for Site of Care (SOC) drugs listed on the FEP Prior Approval lists. Submission of these prior authorizations can begin on **March 15, 2023**, and notification of approval or denial will start on **April 1, 2023**.

For Highmark to cover these infusion therapies in a hospital setting, both the drug and the requested SOC must be medically necessary, based on clinical criteria. If a hospital outpatient setting is not medically necessary for administration but the drug therapy is medically necessary, Highmark will cover the infusion – assuming all other criteria for coverage is met – when administered by:

- A certified infusion specialist at a professional ambulatory infusion center/suite
- In your or another qualified provider's professional office
- In the member's own home

### Why The Policy Change?

Highmark's revised policy reflects a growing national trend to provide specialty drug infusion therapy in the safest, most convenient, and cost-effective environment possible. Members can receive treatment in more comfortable and private settings where they are less likely to be exposed to bacterial and viral infections.

### FEP Prior Approval Lists

The following FEP Prior Approval lists are available on the Provider Resource Center (PRC):

- [FEP Standard and Basic Options Prior Approval List](#)
- [FEP Blue Focus Prior Approval List](#)

They can be found on the PRC by selecting **AUTHORIZATIONS** in the left-hand menu and clicking **Procedures/Service Requiring Prior Authorization**. Both FEP lists are located under **PRIOR AUTHORIZATION CODE LISTS** on that page.

## Submitting Prior Authorizations

The designated fax number for medical injectable authorization requests (including SOC drug authorization requests) is **833-581-1861**. The SOC request fax form can be found on the PRC by selecting **FORMS** in the left-hand menu and clicking **Medical Injectable Drugs**, then **Medical Specialty Drug Authorization**.

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