

# Prior Authorization Guide



SERVICES	WHAT REQUIRES PRIOR AUTHORIZATION
<b>Acute Inpatient</b>	Acute Inpatient Hospital Care, Acute Rehabilitation Facility, including all professional services All elective admissions, including all professional services Note: Urgent/Emergency admissions require 24-hour notification
<b>Clinical Trials</b>	Clinical Trials
<b>Dialysis</b>	Standing Referral Available. For more information on Standing Referral, see Plan's Website: <a href="http://www.vchealthcareplan.org">www.vchealthcareplan.org</a>
<b>DME</b>	DME (Durable Medical Equipment)
<b>Genetic and Infertility Services</b>	Genetic and Infertility Services
<b>Home Health &amp; Hospice Services</b>	Home Health & Hospice Services
<b>Infusions</b>	Infusions
<b>Maternity (Vaginal or Caesarean Delivery)</b>	Authorization (concurrent review or prior authorization) NOT Required Upon Inpatient Admission for VCMC facilities ONLY if within the timeframes listed below. Authorization is required for inpatient admission for all other facilities. Federally Required Timeframes: Vaginal deliveries authorized up to 48 hours' post delivery Caesarean deliveries authorized up to 96 hours' post delivery Additional length of stay beyond these standards require meeting medical necessity determination upon concurrent review. Note: By Federal law health insurers may not restrict maternity benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or the newborn child to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery, or less than 96 hours following a Caesarean section. However, the law does not prohibit the mother's attending provider from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier.
<b>Orthotics &amp; Prosthetics</b>	Orthotics & Prosthetics
<b>Outpatient/Inpatient: Behavioral Health Services</b>	[Including Chemical Dependency/Substance Use Disorder] Member contacts BH Administrator/Life Strategies – contact the main number.
<b>Pain Management Program</b>	Non VCMC Pain Management Office Procedures Only
<b>Skilled Nursing Facility</b>	Skilled Nursing Facility
<b>Therapy Services</b>	Physical Therapy beyond 24 visits. Occupational Therapy beyond 24 visits

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<b>Sleeping Disorders</b>	CPAP machine, BIPAP machine, related surgery (UP3, etc.) (Note: CPAP/BIPAP supplies no longer require prior authorization effective 1/1/19)
<b>Specialty Medications</b>	Specialty medications such as Self Injectable Certain high-cost, complex specialty medications are managed by "Accredo" – some of these medications may require PA
<b>Surgery – Inpatient or Outpatient</b>	Urgent or Elective Surgeries in Surgical Facility
<b>Tertiary Referrals</b>	Tertiary Referrals (e.g. UCLA and CHLA), Perinatology Referrals

## A. Review & Revision History:

Reviewed/Updates by: Faustine Dela Cruz, RN, Catherine Sanders, MD  
 Committee Review: UMC: February 9, 2017; QAC: February 28, 2017  
 Reviewed/No Updates by: Faustine Dela Cruz, RN, Catherine Sanders, MD  
 Committee Review: UMC: February 8, 2018; QAC: February 27, 2018  
 Reviewed/Updated by Faustine Dela Cruz, RN, Catherine Sanders, MD & Robert Sterling, MD on February 2018  
 Committee Review: UM: May 10, 2018; QAC May 29, 2018  
 Reviewed/Updated by Faustine Dela Cruz, RN, Catherine Sanders, MD & Robert Sterling, MD on August 2018  
 Committee Review: UM: August 9, 2018; QAC August 28, 2018  
 Reviewed/Updated by Faustine Dela Cruz, RN & Robert Sterling, MD on November 2018  
 Committee Review: UM: November 8, 2018; QAC November 27, 2018  
 Reviewed/Updated by Faustine Dela Cruz, RN & Robert Sterling, MD on February 2019  
 Committee Review: UM: February 14, 2019; QAC February 26, 2019  
 Reviewed/Updated by Faustine Dela Cruz, RN & Robert Sterling, MD on February 2019  
 Committee Review: UM: May 09, 2019; QAC May 28, 2019  
 Reviewed/Updated by Faustine Dela Cruz, RN & Robert Sterling, MD on June 2019  
 Committee Review: UM: August 8, 2019; QAC August 27, 2019  
 Reviewed/No Updates by: Faustine Dela Cruz, RN, Howard Taekman, MD  
 Committee Review: UMC: February 13, 2020; QAC: February 25, 2020  
 Reviewed/No Updates by: Faustine Dela Cruz, RN, Howard Taekman, MD  
 Committee Review: UMC: February 11, 2021; QAC: February 23, 2021  
 Reviewed/No Updates by: Faustine Dela Cruz, RN, Howard Taekman, MD  
 Committee Review: UMC: February 17, 2022; QAC: February 22, 2022

Revision Date	Content Revised (Yes/No)	Contributors	Review/Revision Notes
2/9/17	Yes	Catherine Sanders, MD; Robert Sterling, MD, Faustine Dela Cruz, RN	Annual review; updated with expansion of specialists for direct referral. Maternity for vaginal or C-section no

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			concurrent or prior authorization required upon inpatient admission and observation for VCMC facilities ONLY. Authorization required for all other non VCMC facilities. Clarified that observation not needing authorization for VCMC facilities ONLY. No prior authorization required for VCMC pain management
2/8/18	No	Catherine Sanders, MD; Robert Sterling, MD, Faustine Dela Cruz, RN	Annual review
5/3/18	Yes	Catherine Sanders, MD; Robert Sterling, MD, Faustine Dela Cruz, RN	Added: Emergency Room (ER) physicians may now directly refer members to Orthopedics specialty for urgently required consultation.
5/29/18	Yes	Catherine Sanders, MD; Robert Sterling, MD, Faustine Dela Cruz, RN	Added nutritional counseling to direct referral.
8/8/18	Yes	Catherine Sanders, MD; Robert Sterling, MD, Faustine Dela Cruz, RN	VCMC Pain Management Specialists and VCMC Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Specialist (PM&R) can directly refer members for pain management injections to Santa Paula Hospital Interventional Radiology
10/11/18	Yes	Robert Sterling, MD, Faustine Dela Cruz, RN	Effective 1/1/19, updated - exclusion for direct referral to contracted Non-VCMC Pain Specialists to office procedures ONLY. Office visits to contracted Non-VCMC Pain Specialists can be directly referred by PCPs.
10/11/18	Yes	Robert Sterling, MD, Faustine Dela Cruz, RN	Effective 1/1/19 For PT providers only: Additional 16 physical therapy visits beyond the initial eight (8) direct referral visits will <b>NO LONGER</b> require prior authorization. Requests for additional therapy beyond the 24 visits will require prior authorization with a submission of a TAR form including the initial therapy evaluation and treatment notes.  For OT providers only: Additional 16 occupational therapy visits beyond the initial eight (8) direct referral visits will <b>NO LONGER</b> require prior authorization. Requests for additional

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			therapy beyond the 24 visits will require prior authorization with a submission of a TAR form including the initial therapy evaluation and treatment notes.
2/14/19	Yes	Catherine Sanders, MD; Robert Sterling, MD, Faustine Dela Cruz, RN	CPAP/BIPAP supplies no longer require prior authorization effective 1/1/19.
3/14/19	Yes	Robert Sterling, MD, Faustine Dela Cruz, RN	Observation for Contracted (Including Tertiary) and Non-Contracted Facilities Including Labor & Delivery Observation no longer requires prior authorization effective 3/14/19
3/20/19	Yes	Robert Sterling, MD, Faustine Dela Cruz, RN	Cleaned document to only have those services that require prior authorization; removed services that are direct referral and those services that do not require prior authorization.
6/12/19	Yes	Robert Sterling, MD, Faustine Dela Cruz, RN	Added – including all professional services associated with acute inpatient requires prior authorization
2/13/20	No	Howard Taekman, MD Robert Sterling, MD, Faustine Dela Cruz, RN	Annual review
2/11/21	No	Howard Taekman, MD Robert Sterling, MD, Faustine Dela Cruz, RN	Annual review
2/17/22	No	Howard Taekman, MD Robert Sterling, MD, Faustine Dela Cruz, RN	Annual review