

February 2023

Number of Referral Visits Increase for BlueMedicare HMO

The number of specialist referrals allowed for BlueMedicare HMO Medicare Advantage members has increased to six. Members must visit the specialist within 180 days from the effective date of the referral. This change became effective in October 2022 and includes oncology and hematology.

Primary care physicians (PCP) for BlueMedicare HMO patients are responsible for coordinating access to all medical care. PCPs in a multi-specialty group must submit a referral for visits to specialists within the same group.

If an authorization or referral is required but not on file, services may not be covered. Online verification of a referral can be obtained through Availity^{®1} at availity.com.

BlueMedicare HMO does not cover out-of-network benefits except for emergency and urgent care, dialysis services, or services specifically authorized.

No referral is required for visits to women's health specialists for routine and preventive services, chiropractic care, podiatrists, behavioral health, and dermatologists.

¹Availity, LLC is a multi-payer joint venture company. Visit availity.com to register.