

## Upcoming Availity Essentials Change: Enhancing Authorization Submissions for Inpatient Services

As part of our ongoing efforts to improve the efficiency and accuracy of the authorization submission process, we are making some updates to Availity Essentials™ for **inpatient services**. The updates are designed to streamline the process and clarify requirements for procedure codes. These changes should also reduce errors and inconsistencies in procedure code submissions and are scheduled for implementation on Availity's next technical release date\*, slated for **August 16, 2025**.

### Key Enhancements

1. **Admission Type and Service Type fields will be moved to the beginning of the authorization submission process.** This will ensure the correct information is collected upfront, determining whether a procedure code is required.
2. **Procedure code field will only display when required.** Based on the selected Admission Type and Service Type, the procedure code field will either be visible and required or hidden.
3. **Inpatient services that do not require procedure codes:**
  - a. Emergency Services
  - b. Skilled Nursing Care
  - c. Rehabilitation
  - d. Long-Term Care
4. **All other inpatient services will require a procedure code.**

### How the New Logic Works

- If you select "Emergency" as the Admission Type, no procedure code field will be displayed, as it is not required.
- If you select "Skilled Nursing Care," "Rehabilitation," or "Long-Term Care" as the Service Type, no procedure code field will be displayed, as it is not required.
- For all other Admission Types and Service Types, a procedure code field will be displayed and marked as required.

**Important note:** *These changes only apply to inpatient services.* Outpatient services will continue to require a procedure code, and no changes will be made to the outpatient authorization submission process.

\*Date subject to change based on Availity's technical releases.

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