

Blue Cross has extended authorization dates on select medical and pharmacy benefit drugs for Medicare Advantage members

To support our health care workers during the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure that members' access to medications isn't disrupted, Medicare Plus BlueSM PPO and BCN AdvantageSM made changes to our prior authorization process.

- **For medical benefit drugs:** For authorizations that are scheduled to expire between April 1 and May 31, 2020, we've extended the authorization end dates for select medical drugs for Medicare Plus Blue and BCN Advantage members. August 31, 2020, is the new expiration date for these authorizations.

Exceptions for medical benefit drugs: Certain treatments are not eligible for authorization extensions. These include, but are not limited to, the following drugs:

- Remicade[®]
- Xiaflex[®]
- Non-preferred hyaluronic acid products such as Genvisc[®] 850 and Hyalgan[®]
- **For pharmacy benefit drugs:** All active prior authorizations for Medicare Plus Blue and BCN Advantage members that are scheduled to expire between April 1 and August 31, 2020, have been extended for 90 days. For example, if a member's authorization was set to expire on May 1, it will be extended to July 30, and if an authorization was set to expire on July 1, it will be extended to Sept. 29.

In addition, Medicare Plus Blue and BCN Advantage members can refill their pharmacy prescriptions early. We're taking this extra precaution so members will have enough medication to stay healthy.

These changes ensure continuity of care for members. They also help ease the administrative burden on health care providers.