

## **Florida Medicaid: COVID-19 State of Emergency: Hospital Transfer Requirements (Effective as of July 1, 2021)**

### **Reinstatement of Interfacility Transfer Prior Authorization Requirements**

With the issuance of [PT 2020-41](#) on July 14, 2020 (see below), the Agency waived service authorization requirements prior to admission for hospital transfers, including:

- inter-facility transfers
- transfers to a long-term care (LTC) hospital, and
- transfers to a nursing facility

In addition, to facilitate non-emergency transportation services needed to aid in these transfers, the Agency waived the need for prior authorization for non-emergency ambulance transportation services for hospital transfer scenarios as described above.

**Prior authorization requirements for the services listed above are reinstated for dates of service on or after July 1, 2021.**

This guidance does not apply to prior authorization and service limit flexibilities put in place to appropriately evaluate and treat individuals diagnosed with COVID-19. The Agency will continue to waive prior authorization and service limits for the treatment of COVID-19 through the end of the federal public health emergency.

### **Previous policy guidance on Hospital Transfer Requirements**

The purpose of Policy Transmittals: [2020-39](#) & [2020-41](#) is to provide direction to Humana regarding the requirements for hospital transfers.

During the COVID-19 state of emergency, Humana must waive service authorization requirements prior to admission for hospital transfers, including:

- inter-facility transfers
- transfers to a long-term care (LTC) hospital, and
- transfers to a nursing facility

This applies when the receiving facility is a participating provider or non-participating provider. Humana Florida Medicaid requires the receiving facility to notify Humana of the admission within forty-eight (48) hours of the admission. Participating providers can send notifications through [Availity.com](#) or by calling Humana clinical intake at 1- 800-523-0023 . At that point, Humana may request additional clinical information to begin **concurrent/continued stay reviews** to facilitate care coordination and discharge

planning.

For urgent notifications, call clinical intake (available 24 hours a day) at 1-800-523-0023. Representatives are also available 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday (excluding major holidays). Press "0" or say "representative" for live help. Have your TIN available.

In addition, to facilitate non-emergency transportation services that may be needed to aid in these transfers, Humana will waive prior authorization requirements for non-emergency ambulance transportation services for hospital transfer scenarios as described above.

These provisions apply to enrollees being transferred from a hospital regardless of diagnosis (i.e., COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients). The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) will continue this flexibility until further notice.

For more information on prior authorization requirements prior to June 19, 2020, please see our [Medicaid Coverage of Services flyer](#). For additional guidance on prior authorization requirements on or after June 19, 2020, please see our [Prior Authorization Reinstatement flyer](#).

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