



## **2023 Prior Authorization Requirements**

Effective January 1, 2023, referrals to a bariatric surgeon for our State of Wisconsin employer group membership will require prior authorization. Network Health is not evaluating the referral itself for medical necessity, rather enlisting the member in care management early in the bariatric care process.

In addition, CPT 64405, occipital nerve block/ablation will require prior authorization for all our commercial (non-Medicare) lines of business. Network Health currently considers this procedure to be experimental and investigational.

A complete 2023 listing of services that require prior authorization as well as our claims policies can be found on our website at <https://networkhealth.com/provider-resources/authorization-information.html>.

For all authorization requests, please visit our prior authorization portal, iExchange located within the Network Health portal. You may also call our utilization management department with medical or behavioral health authorization requests at 866-709-0019 or 920-720-1602, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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## **Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2020-2025**

Network Health’s current Nutrition Clinical Practice Guideline is comprised of the [Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2020-2025](#), Ninth Edition from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Agriculture, updated in December 2020.

The current Nutrition Clinical Practice Guideline is updated every 5 years and is grounded in robust scientific reviews of the current body of evidence on key nutrition and health topics for each stage of life.

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## **Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans - 2nd Edition**

Network Health’s current Physical Activity Clinical Practice Guideline is comprised of the [Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans, 2nd Edition](#) from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, updated in 2018.

The current Physical Activity Clinical Practice Guideline is updated every 10 years and provides science-based guidance to help people over the age of 3 years and older improve their health through participation in regular physical activity.

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## **Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Treatment of PTSD**

Network Health’s current Stress Clinical Practice Guidelines is comprised of the American Psychological Association’s [Clinical Practice Guideline for the Treatment of PTSD](#), updated in February 2017.

The current Stress Clinical Practice Guideline was last updated in 2017 and provides recommendations on psychological and pharmacological treatments for posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in adults.

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## **Strategies to Prevent Obesity and other Chronic Diseases**

Network Health’s current Weight Management Clinical Practice Guideline is comprised of the Strategies to Prevent Obesity and Other Chronic Disease ([The CDC Guide to Strategies to](#)

[Increase Physical Activity in the Community](#) and [The CDC Guide to Strategies to Increase the Consumption of Fruits and Vegetables](#)), both updated in 2011.

The current Weight Management Clinical Practice Guideline was last updated in 2011 and provides guidance on how to select strategies to increase physical activity and consumption of fruits and vegetables in the community. It offers the most relevant information on each type of strategy.

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## **Clinical Practice Guidelines for Heart Failure**

In April 2022, the ACC/AHA Taskforce released updates to the Clinical Practice Guideline for Heart Failure. “[2022 AHA/ACC/HFSA Guideline for the Management of Heart Failure: A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Joint Committee on Clinical Practice Guidelines.](#)”

This ensures guidelines remain current, new data which is reviewed on an ongoing basis. These updates include new, potentially practice changing study results relevant to existing or new medically proven drugs, devices or management strategies evaluated.

Heart failure remains a leading cause of morbidity and mortality globally. The 2022 heart failure guideline provides recommendations based on contemporary evidence for the treatment of these patients. The recommendations present an evidence-based approach to managing patients with heart failure, with the intent to improve quality of care and align with patients’ interests. Many recommendations from the earlier heart failure guidelines have been updated with new evidence, and new recommendations have been created when supported by published data. Value statements are provided for certain treatments with high-quality published economic analyses. The guideline is intended to be a resource for the clinical and public health practice communities.

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## **New Payment Policies Effective 1/1/2023**

- Multiple Therapy Reduction Policy - Commercial: Network Health will apply a ten percent (10%) payment reduction when outpatient professional claims are submitted for multiple therapy procedures (PT/OT/ST).

- **Status Code Policy:** In alignment with CMS, Status Code P does not warrant additional reimbursement when professional services are provided by a physician.

If you have questions regarding these new payment policies, please reach out to your provider operations manager.

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## New Provider Portal Demo

Network Health has offered portal demonstrations throughout the year to share the benefits of our portal with our provider partners. During these demonstrations, we received feedback on how to enhance the portal to meet the needs of each and every user, and we have been able to incorporate several of those suggestions. We created a [demonstration](#) to highlight the benefits of the provider portal, which allows the user to access the following:

- Authorization information (i.e.; approvals/denials)
- Claim status
- Member accumulators
- Member benefits
- Member eligibility
- Payment information (i.e.; check number, check date)
- View Explanation of Payment

Additional enhancements continue to be explored. If you have a suggestion on how to make the provider portal more efficient, or questions on the existing provider portal, please reach out to your provider operations manager.

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## Holiday Hours

Network Health will be closed December 23 and December 26, 2022 as well as January 2, 2023 for the holiday. Please utilize our enhanced provider portal for member eligibility, member benefits, claims status and prior authorization reviews.

Happy Holidays.

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