

To: AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania and AmeriHealth Caritas Northeast Providers

From: AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania and AmeriHealth Caritas Northeast

Date: June 15, 2020

Subject: New Ambulatory Surgery Center Procedures Policy

Summary: Policy Change: Effective August 15, 2020, the surgical and diagnostic procedures listed below are to be delivered in an in-network Ambulatory Surgery Center. Prior authorization will be required for delivery of these services in a hospital-based outpatient surgery center.

AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania and AmeriHealth Caritas periodically reviews its policies for alignment with industry best practices, and to promote safe and cost-effective care. Performance of the procedures listed below in an in-network Ambulatory Surgery Center will help reduce wait time for our Members and support continuity of care.

Effective August 15, 2020, prior authorization is not required for any of the following procedures performed in an in-network Ambulatory Surgery Center.

- Abscess Drainage, Superficial
- Arthroscopy/Arthroplasty
- Carpal Tunnel Release
- Cataract-related Interventions
- Colonoscopy
- Cystourethroscopy
- Debridement
- Excision Superficial Soft Tumor
- Hernia Repair
- Hysteroscopy
- Laryngoscopy
- Lithotripsy
- Septoplasty, Submucous Resection
- Sinus Interventions
- Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy
- Trigger Finger Release
- Tympanostomy
- Upper Endoscopy



Note: Prior authorizations are required for the aforementioned procedures if performed in a hospital setting (e.g., hospital-based outpatient surgery center). Justification for performing such procedures in a hospital setting may include, but is not limited to:

- Duration of patient stay associated with the service is likely to exceed 24 hours and/or require immediate access to services specific to the hospital setting or post-operative inpatient setting.
- Increased risk of complications due to severe comorbidity indicated in the American Society of Anesthesiologists Physical Status Classification System classification IV or higher (American Society of Anesthesiologist 2019; CMS, 2019a, CMS, 2019c).

Questions:

If you have questions about this communication, please contact your Provider Account Executive or the Provider Services department at 1-800-521-6007 for AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania and at 1-888-208-7370 for AmeriHealth Caritas Northeast.