

Durable medical equipment prior authorization requirement changes effective December 1, 2021

Effective **December 1, 2021**, prior authorization (PA) requirements will change for the codes listed below. These medical codes will require PA by Empire BlueCross BlueShield HealthPlus for members. Federal and state law, as well as state contract language and CMS guidelines, including definitions and specific contract provisions/exclusions, take precedence over these PA rules and must be considered first when determining coverage. **Noncompliance with new requirements may result in denied claims.**

PA requirements will be added to the following:

- 97605 — Negative pressure wound therapy (for example, vacuum assisted drainage collection), utilizing durable medical equipment (DME), including topical application(s), wound assessment, and instruction(s) for ongoing care, per session; total wound(s) surface area less than or equal to 50 square centimeters
- 97606 — Negative pressure wound therapy (for example, vacuum assisted drainage collection), utilizing DME, including topical application(s), wound assessment, and instruction(s) for ongoing care, per session; total wound(s) surface area greater than 50 square centimeters
- 97607 — Negative pressure wound therapy, (for example, vacuum assisted drainage collection), utilizing disposable, non-durable medical equipment including provision of exudate management collection system, topical application(s), wound assessment, and instructions for ongoing care, per session; total wound(s) surface area less than or equal to 50 square centimeters
- 97608 — Negative pressure wound therapy, (for example, vacuum assisted drainage collection), utilizing disposable, non-durable medical equipment including provision of exudate management collection system, topical application(s), wound assessment, and instructions for ongoing care, per session; total wound(s) surface area greater than 50 square centimeters
- A6550 — Wound care set, for negative pressure wound therapy electrical pump, includes all supplies and accessories
- A9272 — Wound suction, disposable, includes dressing, all accessories and components, any type, each
- E0637 — Combination sit-to-stand frame/table system, any size including pediatric, with seat lift feature, with or without wheels
- E0638 — Standing frame/table system, one position (for example, upright, supine or prone stander), any size including pediatric, with or without wheels
- E0641 — Standing frame/table system, multi-position (for example, three-way stander), any size including pediatric, with or without wheels
- E0642 — Standing frame/table system, mobile (dynamic stander), any size including pediatric
- E2230 — Manual wheelchair accessory, manual standing system
- E2301 — Wheelchair accessory, power standing system, any type
- E2402 — Negative pressure wound therapy electrical pump, stationary, or portable

* Availity, LLC is an independent company providing administrative support services on behalf of Empire BlueCross BlueShield HealthPlus.

<https://providerpublic.empireblue.com>

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To request PA, you may use one of the following methods:

- **Web:** Once logged in to Availity* at <http://availity.com>, select Patient Registration > Authorizations & Referrals, then choose **Authorizations** or **Auth/Referral Inquiry**, as appropriate.
- **Fax:** 800-964-3627
- **Phone:** 800-450-8753

Not all PA requirements are listed here. Detailed PA requirements are available to contracted providers on the provider website at <https://providerpublic.empireblue.com> > Login. Contracted and noncontracted providers who are unable to access Availity may call our Provider Services at **800-450-8753** for assistance with PA requirements.



Email is the quickest and most direct way to receive important information from Empire BlueCross BlueShield HealthPlus.



To start receiving email from us (including some sent in lieu of fax or mail), submit your information using the QR code to the right or via our online form (<https://bit.ly/3zqQdYB>).