

Prior authorization changes

In 2026, HealthSpring rather than EviCore will manage prior authorizations for post-acute care and home health services for our members.

Here's what you need to know.

On Jan. 1, 2026, Cigna Medicare becomes **HealthSpring**, which is now part of **Health Care Service Corporation**. Starting in January, you'll begin seeing former Cigna Medicare customers with new HealthSpring benefit plans along with brand-new HealthSpring members. At the same time, we're making changes to prior authorization administration:

- On **Jan. 1, 2026**, HealthSpring rather than EviCore will manage prior authorizations for post-acute care services. Post-acute care services include skilled nursing facilities, inpatient rehabilitation, long-term acute care and home health. This change doesn't impact home health in Arizona and WellMed.

How to submit requests for post-acute care, dates of service beginning Jan. 1, 2026

For dates of service beginning Jan. 1, 2026: Starting Dec. 29, 2025, submit initial prior authorization and concurrent review requests for post-acute care services and home health with dates of service beginning Jan. 1, 2026, to HealthSpring. Submit concurrent review requests to HealthSpring at least two days prior to the current authorization end date. Authorizations approved by EviCore before Jan. 1, 2026, will remain effective with HealthSpring.

- Submit requests through our provider portal, Availity® Essentials, at availability.com. The Cigna Medicare Availity payer space will be named HealthSpring Medicare Advantage as of Jan. 1. The payer ID is 52192.
- **New requirement for name and National Provider Identifier:** Include the requesting and servicing facility name and NPI in your requests. This aligns with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services guidelines and turnaround times.
- Requests for out-of-network facilities will be reviewed by a HealthSpring medical director.

For dates of service beginning before Jan. 1: Continue to submit requests for Cigna Medicare members to EviCore as usual. EviCore will manage these prior authorizations through Dec. 31, 2025.

Resources for you

Refer to our provider website, HealthSpring.com/Providers, which is our main communication channel for the latest updates and tools, including our 2026 HealthSpring Provider Manual. Prior authorization code lists and forms will be posted on the website in coming weeks. If you have questions, please contact your Provider Performance Enablement representative.