

NC MCO Lifetime Authorizations Clarification:

- Open Lifetime PAs (i.e., Oxygen, etc.):
 - A concern was raised from the DME provider organization related to the current lifetime PAs for oxygen and ventilators. NC Medicaid allows providers to request a lifetime PA if their beneficiary meets certain medical necessity requirements. Those PAs have an end date of 12/31/9999, additionally the units of the PA are also set to 999 units.
 - The concern is that there is a significant number of members with lifetime PAs for oxygen and ventilators (~20k members) for which the providers would need to enter PAs with the appropriate plans. There is a concern that the providers will not have the capacity to see and/or submit these PAs within the first 90 days of go-live.
 - The DME provider community is requesting some flexibility which will allow providers additional time to submit the necessary information to re-authorize these services with the PHPs.
 - PHP CMOs expressed that it was important for the plan to recertify the use of this equipment to ensure that the provider is assessing the care of the beneficiary and that the member is receiving benefits for the services.
 - Currently, once a lifetime PA is issued, DHB requires that providers renew orders and complete and keep on file the Certification of Medical Necessity (CMN) form on a yearly basis.
 - PHP CMOs indicated that the CMN form is very similar to what a provider would need to submit for PA approval.
 - Question: Can PHPs require a physician's order instead of the CMN form?
 - Response: In Managed Care there is flexibility for PHPs to allow PA to be done differently. There is nothing in the contract that prevents the PHPs from requiring a physician order instead of the CMN form.