

New Documentation Requirements for Pediatric Home Health Services; Billing Reminder

Neighborhood News – October 2024

Effective **October 28, 2024**, home health providers submitting [prior authorization requests](#) for non-skilled Medicaid pediatric member services must include supporting documentation. Requests submitted without documentation will be denied. This update will align pediatric requests with the process already in place for adult members receiving home health services. **Please note this update impacts the Medicaid line of business only.**

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island (Neighborhood) defines pediatric members as anyone 18 years of age or younger. Supporting documentation includes the following:

- A doctor’s referral or a letter of medical necessity; **and**
- The member's current plan of care indicating which activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living the member is being assisted with; **and**
- The nurse's most recent assessment of the member; **and**
- Any additional medical or agency notes that may facilitate the review of the member’s services. (**if applicable**)

Adhering to this requirement will create a smoother authorization process while ensuring members are receiving appropriate and effective treatment.

The following table outlines the services and codes impacted by this update. Providers can also refer to the [home health agency services payment policy](#) for additional information on billing, coding, and payment guidelines.

Figure 1:

Service	Code List
Attendant care services; per 15 minutes	S5125
Homemaker service, NOS; per 15 minutes	S5130

To process prior authorization requests, Neighborhood adheres to the criteria found in the [home care services clinical medical policy](#). Providers should use this policy to help determine both medical necessity and the type of supporting documentation required to submit for prior authorization.

Pediatric Billing Reminder

As a reminder, any private duty nursing or home health aide services identified in a pediatric member’s individualized education program (IEP) should be billed to the local education agency or school district, instead of Neighborhood. These are services considered necessary for the child to receive a free and appropriate education. For more information on the State of Rhode Island’s IEP guidelines, visit the [Department of Education website](#).

If you have any questions regarding the prior authorization process or any of the information included in this notification, please contact Provider Services at 1-800-963-1001.

Note: This notice was mailed via USPS to all contracted home health providers and sent via email on August 28, 2024 to all home health providers registered for Neighborhood's News and Updates. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please [click here](#) to sign up.