

# PROVIDER MANUAL

## (Provider Handbook)

**Molina Healthcare of Illinois, Inc.**  
(Molina Healthcare or Molina)

**Medicare Advantage Program**  
**2023**

Capitalized words or phrases used in this Provider Manual shall have the meaning set forth in your Agreement with Molina Healthcare. “Molina Healthcare” or “Molina” have the same meaning as “Health Plan” in your Agreement. The Provider Manual is customarily updated annually but may be updated more frequently as needed. Providers can access the most current Provider Manual at [MolinaHealthcare.com](https://www.MolinaHealthcare.com).

Last Updated: 6/2023



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# 1. MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PRODUCTS

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## Medicare Products Overview

### **Molina Medicare Choice Care (HMO)**

Molina Medicare Choice Care (HMO) is Molina's Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug plan designed for beneficiaries who are eligible for Medicare Parts A and B. This plan offers all services covered by Original Medicare Parts A and B, prescription drug coverage, and more.

## 2. CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Molina Healthcare of Illinois, Inc.**  
**2001 Butterfield Rd., Suite 750**  
**Downers Grove, IL 60515**

### Provider Network Management Department

The Provider Network Management department handles telephone and written inquiries from Providers regarding address and tax-ID changes, contracting, and training. The department has Provider Network Managers who serve all of Molina's Illinois Provider Network. Eligibility verifications can be conducted at your convenience via the Availity Essentials Portal.

**Availity Essentials Portal:** [provider.MolinaHealthcare.com](http://provider.MolinaHealthcare.com)

**Email:** [MHILProviderNetworkManagement@MolinaHealthcare.com](mailto:MHILProviderNetworkManagement@MolinaHealthcare.com)

**Phone:** (855) 866-5462

### Member Services Department

The Member Services department handles all telephone and written inquiries regarding Member claims; benefits; eligibility/identification; Pharmacy inquiries; selecting or changing Primary Care Providers (PCP); Member complaints; offering to assist Members with obtaining Medicaid covered services; resolving grievances, including requesting authorization of Medicaid services; and navigating Medicaid appeals and grievances regardless of whether such coverage is in Medicaid fee-for-service or a Medicaid managed care plan. Member Services representatives are available seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Central Time, excluding state holidays. Eligibility verifications can be conducted at your convenience via the Availity Essentials portal.

**Phone:** (833) 306-3394 (English & Spanish)

**Hearing Impaired (TTY/TDD):** 711

### Claims Department

Molina strongly encourages Participating Providers to submit Claims electronically (via a clearinghouse or the Availity Essentials portal) whenever possible. To verify the status of your claims, please use the Portal. For other claims questions, contact [Provider Network Management](#).

- Access the Availity Essentials portal at [provider.MolinaHealthcare.com](http://provider.MolinaHealthcare.com)
- EDI Payer ID number: **20934**

To verify the status of your Claims, please use the Availity Essentials portal. Claims questions can be submitted through the chat feature on the Availity Essentials portal, or contact Availity Provider Services.

## Claims Recovery Department

The Claims Recovery department manages recovery for overpayment and incorrect payment of Claims.

<b>Provider Disputes</b>	Molina Healthcare of Illinois, Inc. PO Box 2470 Spokane, WA 99210-2470
<b>Refund Checks Lockbox</b>	Molina Healthcare of Illinois, Inc. PO Box 631264 Cincinnati, OH 45263-1264
<b>Phone</b>	(866) 642-8999
<b>Fax</b>	(888) 396-1163

## Compliance/Anti-Fraud Hotline

If you suspect cases of fraud, waste, or abuse, you must report it to Molina. You may do so by contacting the Molina AlertLine or submitting an electronic complaint using the AlertLine website listed below. For more information about fraud, waste, and abuse, please see the Compliance section of this Provider Manual.

Confidential  
Compliance Official  
Molina Healthcare, Inc.  
200 Oceangate, Suite 100  
Long Beach, CA 90802

**Phone:** (866) 606-3889

**Online:** [MolinaHealthcare.AlertLine.com](https://MolinaHealthcare.AlertLine.com)

## Credentialing Department

The Credentialing department verifies all information on the provider application prior to contracting and re-verifies this information every three years or sooner, depending on Molina's credentialing criteria. The information is then presented to the Professional Review Committee to evaluate a Provider's qualifications to participate in the Molina network.

## Nurse Advice Line

This telephone-based Nurse Advice Line is available to all Molina Members. Members may call anytime they are experiencing symptoms or need health care information. Registered nurses are available 24/7 year-round to assess symptoms and help make good health care decisions.

**English Phone:** (888) 275-8750

**Spanish Phone:** (866) 648-3537

**English Hearing Impaired (TTY/TDD):** (888) 735-2929  
**Spanish Hearing Impaired (TTY/TDD):** (866) 833-4703

## Health Care Services Department

The Health Care Services (formerly Utilization Management) department conducts concurrent review on inpatient cases and processes Prior Authorizations/Service Requests. The Health Care Services (HCS) department also performs Care Management for Members who will benefit from Care Management services. Participating Providers are required to interact with Molina's HCS department electronically whenever possible. Prior Authorization/Service Requests and status checks can be easily managed electronically.

Managing Prior Authorizations/Service Requests electronically provides many benefits to Providers, such as:

- Easy to access to 24/7 online submission and status checks.
- Ensures HIPAA compliance.
- Ability to receive real-time authorization status.
- Ability to upload medical records.
- Increased efficiencies through reduced telephonic interactions.
- Reduces cost associated with fax and telephonic interactions.

Molina offers the following electronic Prior Authorizations/Service Requests options:

- Submit requests directly to Molina via the Availity Essentials portal.
- Submit requests via 278 transactions. See the EDI page of Molina's website for guidance.

**Care Management Email:** [Medicare\\_CM\\_Team@MolinaHealthcare.com](mailto:Medicare_CM_Team@MolinaHealthcare.com)

**Availity Essentials Portal:** [provider.MolinaHealthcare.com](http://provider.MolinaHealthcare.com)

- Prior Authorization fax numbers:

**Outpatient Requests:** (844) 251-1450

**Inpatient Requests:** (844) 834-2152

**Pharmacy Part D:** (866) 290-1309

## Health Management Department

Molina's Health Management programs will be incorporated into the Member's treatment plan to address the Member's health care needs.

**Phone:** (866) 891-2320

## Behavioral Health

Molina manages all components of our covered services for behavioral health. For Member behavioral health needs, please contact us directly at **(833) 306-3394**. Molina has a Behavioral Health Crisis Line that Members may access 24/7 year-round by calling the Member Services telephone number on the back of their Molina ID card.

## Pharmacy Department

Pharmacy services are covered through CVS. A list of in-network pharmacies is available on the [MolinaHealthcare.com](https://www.molinahealthcare.com) website, or by contacting Molina at **(855) 866-5462**.

## Quality

Molina maintains a Quality department to work with Members and Providers in administering the Molina Quality Program.

**Phone:** (855) 866-5462

**Fax:** (855) 556-2074

**Email:** [quality-healthcampaigns@molinahealthcare.com](mailto:quality-healthcampaigns@molinahealthcare.com)

### 3. PROVIDER RESPONSIBILITIES

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#### Nondiscrimination in Health Care Service Delivery

Providers must comply with the nondiscrimination in health care service delivery requirements as outlined in the Cultural Competency and Linguistic Services section of this Provider Manual.

Additionally, Molina requires Providers to deliver services to Molina Members without regard to source of payment. Specifically, Providers may **not** refuse to serve Molina Members because they receive assistance with cost-sharing from a government-funded program.

#### Section 1557 Investigations

All Molina Providers shall disclose all investigations conducted pursuant to Section 1557 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to Molina's Civil Rights Coordinator.

Molina Healthcare, Inc.  
Civil Rights Coordinator  
200 Oceangate, Suite 100  
Long Beach, CA 90802

**Toll Free:** (866) 606-3889

**Hearing Impaired TTY/TDD:** 711

**Online:** [MolinaHealthcare.AlertLine.com](https://MolinaHealthcare.AlertLine.com)

**Email:** [civil.rights@MolinaHealthcare.com](mailto:civil.rights@MolinaHealthcare.com)

For more information, Providers and Members can refer to the Health and Human Services (HHS) website:

[federalregister.gov/documents/2020/06/19/2020-11758/nondiscrimination-in-health-and-health-education-programs-or-activities-delegation-of-authority](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/06/19/2020-11758/nondiscrimination-in-health-and-health-education-programs-or-activities-delegation-of-authority).

#### Facilities, Equipment, and Personnel

The Provider's facilities, equipment, personnel, and administrative services must be at a level and quality necessary to perform duties and responsibilities to meet all applicable legal requirements including the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

#### Provider Data Accuracy and Validation

It is important for Providers to ensure Molina has accurate practice and business information. Accurate information allows us to better support and serve our Members and our Provider Network.



Maintaining an accurate and current Provider Directory is a state and federal regulatory requirement, as well as an NCQA-required element. Invalid information can negatively impact Member access to care, Member/PCP assignments, and referrals. Additionally, current information is critical for timely and accurate claims processing.

Providers **must** validate their Provider information on file with Molina at least once every 90 days for correctness and completeness.

Additionally, in accordance with the terms specified in your Provider Agreement, Providers must notify Molina of any changes as soon as possible, but at minimum 30 calendar days in advance of any changes in any Provider information on file with Molina. Changes include but are not limited to:

- Change in office location(s)/address, office hours, phone, fax, or email.
- Addition or closure of office location(s).
- Addition of a Provider(s) (within an existing clinic/practice).
- Change in Provider or practice name, tax ID and/or National Provider Identifier (NPI).
- Opening or closing your practice to new patients (PCPs only).
- Change in specialty.
- Any other information that may impact Member access to care.

For Provider terminations (within an existing clinic/practice), Providers must notify Molina in writing in accordance with the terms expressed in the Provider Agreement.

Please visit our Provider Online Directory at [MolinaProviderDirectory.com/IL](https://MolinaProviderDirectory.com/IL) to validate your information. Providers can make updates through the [CAQH portal](#), or you may submit a full roster that includes the required information above for each health care provider and/or health care facility in your practice. Providers unable to make updates through the [CAQH portal](#) or roster process should contact their Provider Network Manager for assistance.

**Note:** Some changes may impact credentialing. Providers are required to notify Molina of changes to credentialing information in accordance with the requirements outlined in the Credentialing and Recredentialing section of this Provider Manual.

Molina is required to audit and validate our Provider Network data and Provider Directories on a routine basis. As part of our validation efforts, we may reach out to our network of Providers through various methods, such as letters, phone campaigns, face-to-face contact, fax and fax-back verification, etc. Molina also may use a vendor to conduct routine outreach to validate data that

impacts the Provider Directory, or otherwise impacts its membership or ability to coordinate Member care. Providers are required to supply timely responses to such communications.

### **National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) Data Verification**

In addition to the above verification requirements, CMS recommends that Providers routinely verify and attest to the accuracy of their National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) data.

NPPES allows Providers to attest to the accuracy of their data. If the data is correct, the Provider can attest, and NPPES will reflect the attestation date. If the information is not correct, the Provider can request a change to the record and attest to the changed data, resulting in an updated certification date.

Molina supports the CMS recommendations around NPPES data verification and encourages our Provider Network to verify Provider data via [nppes.cms.hhs.gov](https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov). Additional information regarding the use of NPPES is available in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document published at the following link: [cms.gov/Medicare/Health-Plans/ManagedCareMarketing/index](https://cms.gov/Medicare/Health-Plans/ManagedCareMarketing/index).

### **Molina Electronic Solutions Participation**

Molina requires Providers to utilize electronic solutions and tools whenever possible.

Molina requires all contracted Providers to participate in and comply with Molina's electronic solution requirements, which include but are not limited to, electronic submission of Prior Authorization requests, Prior Authorization status inquiries, health plan access to Electronic Medical Records (EMR), electronic claims submission, Electronic Fund Transfers (EFT), Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA), electronic claims appeal, and registration for and use of the Availity Essentials portal.

Electronic claims include claims submitted via a clearinghouse using the EDI process and claims submitted through the Availity Essentials portal.

Any Provider entering the network as a Contracted Provider will be required to comply with Molina's Electronic Solution Policy by enrolling for EFT/ERA payments and registering for the Availity Essentials portal within 30 days of entering the Molina network.

Molina is committed to complying with all HIPAA Transactions, Code Sets, and Identifiers (TCI) standards. Providers must comply with all HIPAA requirements when using electronic solutions with Molina. Providers must obtain a National

Provider Identifier (NPI) and use their NPI in HIPAA Transactions, including claims submitted to Molina. Providers may obtain additional information by visiting Molina's [HIPAA Resource Center](#) located on our website at [MolinaHealthcare.com](#).

## Electronic Solutions/Tools Available to Providers

Electronic Tools/Solutions available to Molina Providers include:

- Electronic Claims Submission Options.
- Electronic Payment: EFT with ERA.
- Availity Essentials portal.

## Electronic Claims Submission Requirement

Molina strongly encourages participating Providers to submit claims electronically whenever possible. Electronic claims submission provides significant benefits to the Provider such as:

- Promoting HIPAA compliance.
- Helping to reduce operational costs associated with paper claims (printing, postage, etc.).
- Increasing accuracy of data and efficient information delivery.
- Reducing claim processing delays, as errors can be corrected and resubmitted electronically.
- Eliminating mailing time, enabling claims to reach Molina faster.

Molina offers the following electronic claims submission options:

- Submit claims directly to Molina via the Availity Essentials portal. Log into the Availity Essentials portal or contact your Provider Network Manager for registration and claim submission guidance.
- Submit claims to Molina through your EDI clearinghouse using **Payer ID 20934**; refer to our website at [MolinaHealthcare.com](#) for additional information.

While both options are embraced by Molina, submitting claims via the Availity Essentials portal (available to all Providers at **no cost**) offers several additional claims-processing benefits beyond the possible cost savings achieved from the reduction of high-cost paper claims.

Availity Essentials portal claims submission benefits include:

- Adding attachments to claims.
- Submitting corrected claims.
- Easily and quickly voiding claims.
- Checking claims status.

- Receiving timely notification of a change in status for a particular claim.
- Saving incomplete/unsubmitted claims.
- Creating/Managing claim templates.

For more information on EDI claims submission, see the Claims and Compensation section of this Provider Manual.

## Electronic Payment Requirement

Participating Providers are required to enroll in Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) and Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA). Providers enrolled in EFT payments will automatically receive ERAs as well. EFT/ERA services give Providers the ability to reduce paperwork, utilize searchable ERAs, and receive payment and ERA access faster than the paper check and Remittance Advice (RA) processes. There is **no cost** to the Provider for EFT enrollment, and Providers are not required to be in-network to enroll. Molina uses a vendor to facilitate the HIPAA-compliant EFT payment and ERA delivery processes.

Molina contracts with our payment vendor, Change Healthcare, which has partnered with ECHO Health, Inc. (ECHO) for payment delivery and 835 processing. On this platform, you may receive your payment via EFT/ACH, a physical check, or a virtual card.

By default, if you have no payment preferences specified on the ECHO platform, your payments will be issued via virtual card. This method may include a fee that is established between you and your merchant agreement, and is **not** charged by Molina or ECHO. You may opt out of this payment preference and request payment be reissued at any time by following the instructions on your Explanation of Payment and contacting ECHO Customer Service at (888) 834-3511 or email ECHO at [edi@echohealthinc.com](mailto:edi@echohealthinc.com). Once your payment preference has been updated, all payments will go out in the method requested.

If you would like to opt out of receiving a virtual card prior to your first payment, you may contact ECHO Customer Service at (888) 834-3511 or [edi@echohealthinc.com](mailto:edi@echohealthinc.com) and request that your Tax ID for payer Molina Healthcare of Illinois be opted out of virtual cards.

Once you have enrolled for electronic payments, you will receive the associated ERAs from ECHO with the Molina Payer ID. Please ensure that your Practice Management System is updated to accept the Payer ID referenced below. All generated ERAs will be accessible to download from the ECHO provider portal at [providerpayments.com](http://providerpayments.com).

If you have any difficulty with the website or have additional questions, ECHO has a Customer Service team available to assist with this transition. Additionally, changes to the ERA enrollment or ERA distribution can be made by contacting the ECHO Health Customer Service team at (888) 834-3511.

As a reminder, Molina's Payer ID is **20934**.

Once your account is activated, you will begin receiving all payments through EFT, and you will no longer receive a paper Explanation of Payment (EOP)—i.e., Remittance—through the mail. You will receive 835s by your selection of routing or via manual download, and can view, print, download, and save historical and new ERAs with a two-year lookback.

Instructions on how to register are available under the EDI/ERA/EFT tab on Molina's website at [MolinaHealthcare.com](https://www.molinahealthcare.com).

## Availity Essentials Portal

Providers and third-party billers can use the **no-cost** Availity Essentials portal to perform many functions online without the need to call or fax Molina. Registration can be performed online and, once completed, the easy-to-use tool offers the following features:

- Verify Member eligibility, covered services, and view HEDIS® needed services (gaps).
- Claims:
  - Submit Professional (CMS-1500) and Institutional (CMS-1450 [UB04]) claims with attached files.
  - Correct/void claims.
  - Add attachments to previously submitted claims.
  - Check claims status.
  - View Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA) and Explanation of Payment (EOP).
  - Create and manage claim templates.
  - Create and submit a claim appeal with attached files.
- Prior Authorizations/Service Requests:
  - Create and submit Prior Authorization/Service Requests.
  - Check status of Authorization/Service Requests.
- Download forms and documents.
- Send/receive secure messages to/from Molina.

## Balance Billing

Pursuant to law, Members who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid shall not be held liable for Medicare Part A and B cost sharing when the state or

another payer is responsible for paying such amounts. Non-contracted Providers and Providers that are contracted with Molina **cannot** bill the Member for any Covered Services. The Provider is responsible for verifying eligibility and obtaining approval for those services that require Prior Authorization.

Providers agree that under no circumstance shall a Member be liable to the Provider for any sums that are the legal obligation of Molina to the Provider. Balance billing a Member for Covered Services is **prohibited**, except for the Member's applicable copayment, coinsurance, and deductible amounts.

## Member Rights and Responsibilities

Providers are required to comply with the Member Rights and Responsibilities as outlined in Molina's Member materials (such as Member Handbooks).

For additional information, please refer to the Member Rights and Responsibilities section of this Provider Manual.

## Member Information and Marketing

Any written informational or marketing materials directed to Molina Members must be developed and distributed in a manner compliant with all state and federal laws and regulations, and approved by Molina prior to use.

Contact your Provider Network Manager for information and review of proposed materials.

## Member Eligibility Verification

Possession of a Molina ID card does **not** guarantee Member eligibility or coverage. Providers should verify eligibility of Molina Members prior to rendering services. Payment for services rendered is based on enrollment and benefit eligibility. The contractual agreement between Providers and Molina places the responsibility for eligibility verification on the Provider of services.

Providers who contract with Molina may verify a Member's eligibility via:

- Availity Essentials portal: [provider.molinahealthcare.com](https://provider.molinahealthcare.com)
- Molina's automated telephone IVR system: **(855) 866-5462**
- The [HFS Medical Electronic Data Interchange \(MEDI\)](#)

For additional information please refer to the Eligibility and Enrollment in Medicare Advantage Plans section of this Provider Manual.

## Member Cost Share

Providers should verify the Molina Member's cost-share status prior to requiring

the Member to pay copay, coinsurance, deductible, or other cost-share that may be applicable to the Member's specific benefit plan. Some plans have a total maximum cost-share that frees the Member from any further out-of-pocket charges once reached (during that calendar year).

## **Health Care Services (Utilization Management and Care Management)**

Providers are required to participate in and comply with Molina's Utilization Management and Care Management programs, including all policies and procedures regarding Molina's facility admission, Prior Authorization, Medical Necessity review determination, and Interdisciplinary Care Team (ICT) procedures. Providers will also cooperate with Molina in audits to identify, confirm, and/or assess utilization levels of covered services.

Providers are required to participate in, and comply with, the CMS Model of Care (MOC) training requirements as applicable. This includes completing Molina's initial and annual MOC training and submitting attestation documentation upon completion. Molina's MOC Provider training and attestation documents are found on the Molina website at [MolinaHealthcare.com](https://www.molinahealthcare.com).

For additional information, please refer to the Health Care Services section of this Provider Manual.

## **In-Office Laboratory Tests**

Molina's policies allow only certain lab tests to be performed in a Provider's office regardless of the line of business. All other lab testing must be referred to an In-Network Laboratory Provider that is a certified, full-service laboratory offering a comprehensive test menu that includes routine, complex, drug, genetic testing, and pathology. [A list of those lab services](#) that are allowed to be performed in the Provider's office is found on the Molina website at [MolinaHealthcare.com](https://www.molinahealthcare.com).

Additional information regarding In-Network Laboratory Providers and In-Network Laboratory Provider patient service centers is found on the laboratory Providers' respective websites at [QuestDiagnostics.com](https://www.questdiagnostics.com) and [LabCorp.com](https://www.labcorp.com).

Specimen collection is allowed in a Provider's office and shall be compensated in accordance with your agreement with Molina and applicable state and federal billing and payment rules and regulations.

Claims for tests performed in the Provider's office but not on Molina's list of allowed in-office laboratory tests will be denied.

## Referrals

A referral may become necessary when a Provider determines Medically Necessary services are beyond the scope of the PCP's practice or it is necessary to consult or obtain services from other in-network specialty health professionals, unless the situation is one involving the delivery of Emergency Services. Information is to be exchanged between the PCP and specialist to coordinate care of the patient to ensure continuity of care. Providers must document in the patient's medical record any referrals that are made. Documentation must include the specialty, services requested, and diagnosis for which the referral is being made.

Providers should direct Molina Members to health professionals, hospitals, laboratories, and other facilities and Providers that are contracted and credentialed (if applicable) with Molina. In the case of urgent and Emergency Services, Providers may direct Members to an appropriate service, including but not limited to primary care, urgent care, and hospital Emergency Room. There may be circumstances in which referrals may require an out-of-network Provider. Prior Authorization will be required from Molina except in the case of Emergency Services.

For additional information, please refer to the Health Care Services section of this Provider Manual.

PCPs are able to refer a Member to an in-network specialist for consultation and treatment without a referral request to Molina.

## Treatment Alternatives and Communication with Members

Molina endorses open Provider/Member communication regarding appropriate treatment alternatives and any follow-up care. Molina promotes open discussion between Provider and Members regarding Medically Necessary or appropriate patient care, regardless of covered benefits limitations. Providers are free to communicate any and all treatment options to Members regardless of benefit coverage limitations. Providers are also encouraged to promote and facilitate training in self-care and other measures Members may take to promote their own health.

## Pharmacy Program

Providers are required to adhere to Molina's drug formularies and prescription policies. For additional information please refer to the Medicare Part D section of this Provider Manual.



## Participation in Quality Programs

Providers are expected to participate in Molina's Quality Programs and collaborate with Molina in conducting peer review and audits of care rendered by Providers. Such participation includes, but is not limited to:

- Access to care standards.
- Site and medical record-keeping practice reviews as applicable.
- Delivery of patient care information.

For additional information, please refer to the Quality section of this Provider Manual.

## Compliance

Providers must comply with all state and federal laws and regulations related to the care and management of Molina Members.

## Confidentiality of Member Health Information and HIPAA Transactions

Molina requires that Providers respect the privacy of Molina Members (including Molina Members who are not patients of the Provider) and comply with all applicable laws and regulations regarding the privacy of patient and Member protected health information.

For additional information, please refer to the Compliance section of this Provider Manual.

## Participation in Grievance and Appeals Programs

Providers are required to participate in Molina's Grievance Program and cooperate with Molina in identifying, processing, and promptly resolving all Member complaints, grievances, or inquiries. If a Member has a complaint regarding a Provider, the Provider will participate in the investigation of the grievance. If a Member submits an appeal, the Provider will participate by providing medical records or statements if needed. This includes the maintenance and retention of Member records for a period of not less than 10 years and retained further if the records are under review or audit until such time that the review or audit is complete.

For additional information, please refer to the Medicare Member Grievances and Appeals section of this Provider Manual.

## Participation in Credentialing

Providers are required to participate in Molina's credentialing and recredentialing process and will satisfy, throughout the term of their contract,

all credentialing and recredentialing criteria established by Molina and applicable accreditation, state, and federal requirements. This includes providing prompt responses to Molina's requests for information related to the credentialing or recredentialing process.

Providers must notify Molina no less than 30 days in advance when they relocate or open an additional office.

More information about Molina's Credentialing program, including Policies and Procedures, is available in the Credentialing and Recredentialing section of this Provider Manual.

## **Delegation**

Delegated entities must comply with the terms and conditions outlined in Molina's Delegated Services Addendum. Please see the Delegation section of this Provider Manual for more information about Molina's delegation requirements and delegation oversight.

## **Primary Care Provider Responsibilities**

A Primary Care Provider (PCP) is required to:

- Serve as the ongoing source of primary and preventive care for Members.
- Assist with coordination of care as appropriate for the Member's health care needs.
- Recommend specialists participating in the Molina Provider Network.
- Triage appropriately.
- Notify Molina of Members who may benefit from Care Management.
- Participate in the development of Care Management treatment plans.
- Complete annual Special Needs Plan (SNP) Model of Care (MOC) Training.
- Participate with all MOC required activities, including coordination of care during transitions.

## 4. CULTURAL COMPETENCY AND LINGUISTIC SERVICES

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### Background

Molina works to ensure all Members receive culturally competent care across the service continuum to reduce health disparities and improve health outcomes. The Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health Care (CLAS) standards published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of Minority Health (OMH) guides the activities to deliver culturally competent services.

Molina complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and other regulatory/contract requirements. Compliance ensures the provision of linguistic access and disability-related access to all Members, including those with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and Members who are deaf, hard of hearing, non-verbal, have a speech impairment, or have an intellectual disability.

Policies and procedures address how individuals and systems within the organization will effectively provide services to people of all cultures, races, ethnic backgrounds, genders, gender identities, sexual orientations, ages, and religions, as well as those with disabilities in a manner that recognizes, values, affirms, and respects the worth of the individuals and protects and preserves the dignity of each.

Additional information on cultural competency and linguistic services is available at [MolinaHealthcare.com](http://MolinaHealthcare.com), from your Provider Network Manager, or by calling Molina's Provider Network Management department at **(855) 866-5462**.

### Nondiscrimination in Health Care Service Delivery

Molina complies with Section 1557 of the ACA. As a Provider participating in Molina's Provider Network, you and your staff must also comply with the nondiscrimination provisions and guidance set forth by the Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights (HHS-OCR), state law, and federal program rules, including Section 1557 of the ACA.

You are required to do, at a minimum, the following:

1. You **MAY NOT** limit your practice because of a Member's medical (physical or mental) condition or the expectation for the need of frequent or high-cost care.

2. You **MUST** post in a conspicuous location in your office a Nondiscrimination Notice. A sample of the Nondiscrimination Notice that you will post can be found on the Member pages of Molina’s website at [molinahealthcare.com/members/il/en-us/mem/medicare/medicare.aspx](http://molinahealthcare.com/members/il/en-us/mem/medicare/medicare.aspx).
3. You **MUST** post in a conspicuous location in your office, a Tagline Document, that explains how to access non-English language services. A sample of the Tagline Document can be found on the Member pages of Molina’s website at [molinahealthcare.com/members/common/en-US/multi-language-taglines.aspx](http://molinahealthcare.com/members/common/en-US/multi-language-taglines.aspx).
4. If a Molina Member is in need of language assistance services while at your office, and you are a recipient of Federal Financial Assistance, you **MUST** take reasonable steps to make your services accessible to persons with limited English proficiency (LEP). You can find resources on meeting your LEP obligations at [hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-individuals/special-topics/limited-english-proficiency/index.html](http://hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-individuals/special-topics/limited-english-proficiency/index.html). See also, [hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-providers/clearance-medicare-providers/technical-assistance/limited-english-proficiency/index.html](http://hhs.gov/civil-rights/for-providers/clearance-medicare-providers/technical-assistance/limited-english-proficiency/index.html).
5. If a Molina Member complains of discrimination, you **MUST** provide them with the following information so that they may file a complaint with Molina’s Civil Rights Coordinator or the HHS-OCR:

<p>Civil Rights Coordinator Molina Healthcare, Inc. 200 Oceangate, Suite 100 Long Beach, CA 90802</p> <p>Phone (866) 606-3889 TTY/TDD, 711</p> <p>Email <a href="mailto:civil.rights@MolinaHealthcare.com">civil.rights@MolinaHealthcare.com</a></p>	<p>Office of Civil Rights U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 200 Independence Avenue, SW Room 509F, HHH Building Washington, D.C. 20201</p> <p>Website <a href="http://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf">ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf</a></p> <p>Complaint Form <a href="http://hhs.gov/ocr/complaints/index.html">hhs.gov/ocr/complaints/index.html</a></p>
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If you or a Molina Member need additional help or more information, call **(800) 368-1019** or TTY/TDD (800) 537-7697.

## Cultural Competency

Molina is committed to reducing health care disparities. Training employees, Providers, and their staff, and monitoring quality are the cornerstones of successful culturally competent service delivery. Molina integrates cultural competency training into the overall Provider training and quality-monitoring programs. An integrated quality approach enhances the way people think about

our Members, service delivery, and program development so that cultural competency becomes a part of everyday thinking.

## Provider and Community Training

Molina offers educational opportunities in cultural competency concepts for Providers, their staff, and Community Based Organizations. Molina conducts Provider training during Provider orientation with annual reinforcement training offered through Provider Network Management and/or online/web-based training modules.

Training modules, delivered through a variety of methods, include:

1. Provider written communications and resource materials.
2. On-site cultural competency training.
3. Online cultural competency Provider training modules.
4. Integration of cultural competency concepts and nondiscrimination of service delivery into Provider communications.

## Integrated Quality Improvement—Ensuring Access

Molina ensures Member access to language services such as oral interpretation, American Sign Language (ASL), and written translation. Molina must also ensure access to programs, aids, and services that are congruent with cultural norms. Molina supports Members with disabilities and assists Members with LEP.

Molina develops Member materials according to Plain Language Guidelines. Members or Providers may also request written Member materials in alternate languages and formats (i.e., Braille, audio, large print), leading to better communication, understanding and Member satisfaction. Online materials found on [MolinaHealthcare.com](https://www.molinahealthcare.com) and information delivered in digital form meet Section 508 accessibility requirements to support Members with visual impairments.

Key Member information, including Appeal and Grievance Forms, are also available in threshold languages on the Molina Member website.

## Access to Interpreter Services

Providers may request interpreters for Members whose primary language is other than English by calling Molina's Contact Center toll free at **(833) 306-3394**. If Contact Center Representatives are unable to interpret in the requested language, the Representative will immediately connect you and the Member to a qualified language service Provider.

Molina Providers must support Member access to telephonic interpreter services by offering a telephone with speaker capability or a telephone with a dual headset. Providers may offer Molina Members interpreter services if the

Members do not request them on their own. Please remember it is **never** permissible to ask a family member, friend, or minor to interpret.

## Documentation

As a contracted Molina Provider, your responsibilities for documenting Member language services/needs in the Member's medical record are as follows:

- Record the Member's language preference in a prominent location in the medical record. This information is provided to you on the electronic Member lists that are sent to you each month by Molina.
- Document all Member requests for interpreter services.
- Document who provided the interpreter service. This includes the name of Molina's internal staff or someone from a commercial interpreter service vendor. Information should include the interpreter's name, operator code, and vendor.
- Document all counseling and treatment done using interpreter services.
- Document if a Member insists on using a family member, friend, or minor as an interpreter, or refuses the use of interpreter services after notification of their right to have a qualified interpreter at no cost.

## Members Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Molina provides a TTY/TDD (Teletypewriters/Telecommunications Device for the Deaf) connection accessible by dialing 711. This connection provides access to the Member and Provider Contact Center, Quality, Health Care Services, and all other health plan functions.

Molina strongly recommends that Provider offices make assistive listening devices available for Members who are deaf or hard of hearing. Assistive listening devices enhance the sound of the Provider's voice to facilitate a better interaction with the Member.

Molina will provide face-to-face service delivery for ASL to support our Members who are deaf or hard of hearing. Requests should be made three business days in advance of an appointment to ensure availability of the service. In most cases, Members will have made this request via Molina Member Services.

## Nurse Advice Line

Molina provides Nurse Advice services for Members 24/7 year-round. The Nurse Advice Line provides access to 24-hour interpretive services. Members may call Molina's Nurse Advice Line directly:

**English Phone:** (888) 275-8750

**Spanish Phone:** (866) 648-3537

**English Hearing Impaired (TTY/TDD):** (888) 735-2929  
**Spanish Hearing Impaired (TTY/TDD):** (866) 833-4703

The Nurse Advice Line telephone numbers are also printed on Molina Membership cards.

## Program and Policy Review Guidelines

Molina conducts assessments of the following information at regular intervals to ensure its programs are most effectively meeting the needs of its Members and Providers:

- Annual collection and analysis of race, ethnicity, and language data from:
  - Eligible individuals to identify significant culturally and linguistically diverse populations within a plan's membership.
  - Contracted Providers to assess gaps in network demographics.
- Revalidate data at least annually.
- Local geographic population demographics and trends derived from publicly available sources (community health measures and state rankings report).
- Applicable national demographics and trends derived from publicly available sources.
- Assessment of Provider Network.
- Collection of data and reporting for the Diversity of Membership HEDIS® measure.
- Annual determination of threshold languages and processes in place to provide Members with vital information in threshold languages.
- Identification of specific cultural and linguistic disparities found within the plan's diverse populations.
- Analysis of HEDIS® and CAHPS®/Qualified Health Plan Enrollee Experience Survey results for potential cultural and linguistic disparities that prevent Members from obtaining the recommended key chronic and preventive services.

## 5. MEMBER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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Providers must comply with the rights and responsibilities of Molina Members as outlined in the Molina Evidence of Coverage (EOC). The EOC that is provided to Members annually is hereby incorporated into this Provider Manual. The most current EOC can be found on the Member pages of Molina's website: [Member Materials and Forms on MolinaHealthcare.com](#). Refer to Chapter 8 which is titled "Your Rights and Responsibilities."

State and federal law requires that health care Providers and health care facilities recognize Member rights while the Members are receiving medical care, and that Members respect the health care Provider's or health care facility's right to expect certain behavior on the part of the Members.

For additional information, please contact Molina Member Services at **(833) 306-3394**, seven days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Central Time. TTY/TDD users, please call 711.

### Second Opinions

If a Member does not agree with the Provider's plan of care, the Member has the right to request, at no cost, a second opinion from another Provider. Members should call Member Services to find out how to get a second opinion. Second opinions may require Prior Authorization.



## 6. ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT IN MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLANS

### Enrollment Information

Members who wish to enroll in Molina Medicare Advantage plans must meet the eligibility criteria as outlined in the Molina Evidence of Coverage (EOC). The most current EOC can be found on the Member pages of Molina’s website: [Member Materials and Forms on MolinaHealthcare.com](#). Refer to Chapter 1 which is titled “Getting started as a Member.”

Furthermore, Molina does not impose any additional eligibility requirements as a condition of enrollment other than those established by CMS in Chapter 2 of the Medicare Managed Care Manual: [cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Internet-Only-Manuals-IOMs](#).

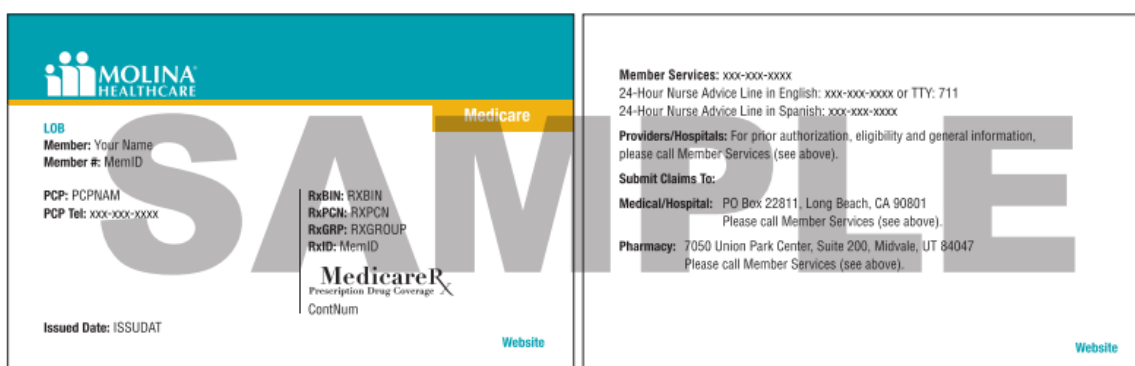
### Member Toll-Free Telephone Numbers

Members may call our Member Contact Center toll free at **(833) 306-3394**, seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Central Time, or TTY/TDD 711, for persons with hearing impairments.

### Effective Date of Coverage

Molina will determine the effective date of enrollment for all enrollment requests. The effective date of coverage is determined when the complete enrollment is signed and received, following the Member’s enrollment election period.

### Member Identification Card Example—Medical Services



### Disenrollment

Staff of Molina may never, verbally, in writing, or by any other action or inaction, request or encourage a Medicare Member to disenroll except as outlined in the EOC. The most current EOC can be found on the Member pages of Molina’s

website: [Member Materials and Forms on MolinaHealthcare.com](#). Refer to Chapter 10 titled “Ending your membership in the plan.”

In all circumstances except death, Molina will provide a written notice to the Member with an explanation of the reason for the disenrollment. All notices will be in compliance with CMS regulations and will be approved by CMS.

In the event of death, a verification of disenrollment will be sent to the deceased Member’s estate.

## Verifying Eligibility

To ensure payment, Molina strongly encourages Providers to verify eligibility at every visit—and especially prior to providing services that require authorization. Possession of the ID card does not guarantee Member eligibility or coverage. It is the responsibility of the Provider to verify the eligibility of the cardholder.

Providers who contract with Molina may verify a Member’s eligibility by checking the following:

- Availity Essentials portal: [provider.MolinaHealthcare.com](#)

Molina Provider Services automated IVR phone system: **(855) 866-5462**.

## 7. BENEFIT OVERVIEW

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### Questions about Molina Medicare Advantage Benefits

Please reference the Prior Authorization tools located at on the Molina website and the Availity Essentials portal with any questions as to whether a service is covered or requires Prior Authorization (PA). You may also contact Molina at **(855) 866-5462**, seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Central Time, or TTY/TDD 711, for persons with hearing impairments.

### Links to Molina Benefit Materials

Member benefit materials including the Summary of Benefits and the Evidence of Coverage documents can be found on Molina's website: [Member Materials and Forms on MolinaHealthcare.com](#). Detailed information about benefits and services can be found in the Evidence of Coverage booklets provided to each Molina Member.

**Note:** The Medicare-covered Initial Preventive and Physical Examination (IPPE) and the annual wellness visit are covered at zero cost-sharing. Our plans cover Medicare-covered preventive services at no cost to the Member.

### Obtaining Access to Certain Covered Services

#### Telehealth and Telemedicine Services

Molina Members may obtain physical and behavioral health Covered Services from Participating Providers through the use of telehealth and telemedicine services. Not all Participating Providers offer these services. The following additional provisions apply to the use of telehealth and telemedicine services:

- Services must be obtained from a Participating Provider.
- Members have the option of receiving services from their PCP through telehealth. If they choose to use this option, the Member must use a Network Provider who offers telehealth.
- Services are a method of accessing Covered Services and not a separate benefit.
- Services are not permitted when the Member and Participating Provider are in the same physical location.
- Member cost-sharing may apply based on the applicable Schedule of Benefits.
- Services must be coded in accordance with applicable reimbursement policies and billing guidelines.
- Rendering Provider must comply with applicable federal and state guidelines for telehealth service delivery.

For additional information on telehealth and telemedicine claims and billing, please refer to the Claims and Compensation section of this Provider Manual.

## Supplemental Services

Molina offers supplemental benefits for Medicare Members. Supplemental Benefits can be either mandatory, meaning all Members on the plan are eligible for that supplemental benefit, or considered Special Supplemental Benefits for the Chronically Ill (SSBCI). Per CMS, SSBCIs are only available to Members who meet specific criteria by having certain chronic conditions that qualify them for a specific benefit and who have a current, completed Health Risk Assessment (HRA).

A request for a SSBCI can be sent directly to Molina's Care Management department, who will verify the HRA is current and complete, and validate the Member has the qualifying diagnosis. Verification of qualifying criteria may require confirmation directly with our Providers, in which case a member of our Care Management team will reach out to your office. Additionally, you can assist by helping with HRA completion. We appreciate your assistance with this process and your support to ensure that all SSBCIs are provided as CMS had intended. Depending on the plan, SSBCI benefits may include:

- Food and produce.
- Service animal supplies allowance.
- Non-Medicare-covered genetic test kits.
- Mental health and wellness applications allowance.
- Pest control.

A referral from the Member's PCP is not required for mandatory supplemental benefits.

Please refer to the Member Evidence of Coverage (EOC) for more information on the Molina's Member website: [Member Materials and Forms on MolinaHealthcare.com](#).

Molina partners with Providers/vendors for certain services. To find an in-network Provider/vendor, please refer to the Provider Online Directory (POD) at [MolinaProviderDirectory.com/IL](#).

## Provider Education on Covered Benefits and Member Access to Care

Providers are educated on the tools and information required to ensure Members understand their benefits and how to access care. This includes but is not limited to:

- How to identify Medicare-covered benefits by accessing the appropriate plan materials.
- How to access covered services.

## 8. HEALTH CARE SERVICES (HCS)

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Health Care Services (HCS) is comprised of Utilization Management (UM) and Care Management (CM) departments that work together to achieve an integrated approach to coordinating care. Research and experience show that a higher-touch, Member-centric care environment for at-risk Members supports better health outcomes. Molina provides care management services to Members to address a broad spectrum of needs, including chronic conditions that require the coordination and provision of health care services.

### Utilization Management (UM)

The Molina Utilization Management program provides pre-service authorization, inpatient authorization management, and concurrent review of inpatient and continuing services. Molina aims to ensure that services are medically necessary and an appropriate use of resources for the Member. Some of the elements of the UM program are:

- Evaluating the medical necessity and appropriateness of health care services across the continuum of care.
- Applying appropriate criteria based on CMS guidelines, third-party guidelines and, when applicable, state requirements.
- Providing pre-admission, admission, and inpatient hospital and skilled nursing facility review.
- Ensuring that services are available in a timely manner, in appropriate settings.
- Ensuring that qualified health care professionals are engaged in the UM decision-making process when appropriate.
- Ensuring the appropriate application of Member benefit coverage and coverage criteria.
- For dual-eligible Members:
  - If Prior Authorization (PA) is submitted to Molina for any non-covered benefits, Molina will inform the Provider in the denial notification, which Medicaid insurer (including their contact information) the PA should be submitted to.

Medical Groups/IPAs and delegated entities who assume responsibility for UM must adhere to Molina's UM Policies. Their programs, policies and supporting documentation are reviewed by Molina at least annually.

### MCG Cite for Guideline Transparency and MCG Cite AutoAuth

Molina has partnered with MCG Health to implement Cite for Guideline Transparency. Providers can access this feature through the Availity Essentials portal. MCG Cite for Guideline Transparency enables Molina and Providers to

share clinical indications. The tool operates as a secure extension of Molina's existing MCG resource and helps meet regulations around transparency for delivery of care:

- Transparency—Delivers medical determination transparency.
- Access—Clinical evidence that payers use to support member care decisions.
- Security—Ensures easy and flexible access via secure web access.

MCG Cite for Guideline Transparency does not affect the process for notifying Molina of admissions or for seeking Prior Authorization approval. To learn more about MCG or Cite for Guideline Transparency, visit [MCG's website](#) or call **(888) 464-4746**.

Molina has also partnered with MCG Health to extend our Cite AutoAuth self-service method for all lines of business to submit advanced imaging Prior Authorization (PA) requests.

Cite AutoAuth can be accessed via the Availity Essentials portal and is available 24/7 year-round. This method of submission is strongly encouraged as your primary submission route; existing fax/phone/email processes will also be available. Clinical information submitted with the PA will be reviewed by Molina. This system will provide quicker and more efficient processing of your authorization request, and the status of the authorization will be available immediately upon completion of your submission.

### **What is Cite AutoAuth and how does it work?**

By attaching the relevant care guideline content to each PA request and sending it directly to Molina, health care Providers receive an expedited, often immediate response. Through a customized rules engine, Cite AutoAuth compares Molina's specific criteria to the clinical information and attached guideline content to the procedure to determine potential for auto authorization.

Self-services available in the Cite AutoAuth tool include, but are not limited to MRIs, CTs, and PET scans. To see the full list of imaging codes that require PA, refer to the PA code LookUp Tool at [MolinaHealthcare.com](#).

### **Medical Necessity Review**

Molina only reimburses for services that are Medically Necessary. Medical Necessity review may take place prospectively, as part of the inpatient admission notification/concurrent review, or retrospectively. Medical Necessity decisions are made by a physician or other appropriate licensed health care personnel with sufficient medical expertise and knowledge of the appropriate

coverage criteria. These medical professionals conduct Medical Necessity reviews in accordance with CMS guidelines (such as national and local coverage determinations) and use nationally recognized evidence-based guidelines, third-party guidelines, guidelines from recognized professional societies, and peer-reviewed medical literature, when appropriate. Providers may request to review the criteria used to make the final decision.

Where applicable, Molina Corporate Policies can be found on the public website at [MolinaClinicalPolicy.com](https://www.molinahealthcare.com/clinical-policy). Please note that Molina follows federal and state specific criteria, if available, before applying Molina-specific criteria.

## Requesting Prior Authorization

Contracted Providers are responsible for requesting Prior Authorization of services when required by Molina policy, which may change from time to time. Failure to obtain Prior Authorization before rendering a service may result in a pre-service denial with Provider liability and/or denial of the claim. The Member **cannot** be billed when a contracted Provider fails to follow the Utilization Management requirements for the Plan, including failure to obtain prior authorization before the Member receives the item or service.

Obtaining authorization does not guarantee payment. Molina retains the right to review benefit limitations and exclusions, beneficiary eligibility on the date of service, correct coding, billing practices, and whether the service was provided in the most appropriate and cost-effective setting of care.

Molina requires Prior Authorization for specified services. The list of services that require Prior Authorization is available in narrative form, along with a more detailed list by CPT and HCPCS code. The Prior Authorization list is customarily updated quarterly, but may be updated more frequently, and is posted on the Molina website at [MolinaHealthcare.com](https://www.molinahealthcare.com). The Prior Auth LookUp Tool is also available, both on the Molina website and in the Availity Essentials portal.

Providers are encouraged to use the Molina Prior Authorization form provided on the Molina website at [MolinaHealthcare.com](https://www.molinahealthcare.com). If using a different form, the Prior Authorization request must include the following information:

- Member demographic information (name, date of birth, Molina ID number, health plan).
- Provider demographic information (ordering Provider, servicing Provider, and referring Provider (when appropriate)).
- Relevant Member diagnoses and ICD-10 codes.
- Requested items and/or services, including all appropriate CPT and HCPCS codes.
- Location where services will be performed (when relevant).



- Supporting clinical information demonstrating medical necessity under Medicare guidelines (and/or State guidelines when applicable).

Members and their authorized representatives may also request Prior Authorization of any item or service they want to receive. In this case, the physician or other appropriate Provider will be contacted to confirm the need for and specific details of the request.

Contracted Providers are expected to cooperate with Molina UM processes and guidelines, including submission of sufficient clinical information to support the Medical Necessity, Level of Care, and/or site of service of the items and/or services requested. Contracted Providers must also respond timely and completely to requests for additional information. If Molina determines that a contracted Provider failed to follow the terms and conditions of the relevant Provider Contract or the Provider Manual, a denial may be issued with Provider liability. Members **cannot** be held responsible when the Provider fails to follow the terms and conditions of the relevant Provider Agreement or this Provider Manual. For information on the contracted Provider claims appeals process see the Claim Reconsideration subsection located in the Claims and Compensation section of this Provider Manual.

Requests for Prior Authorization may be sent via the Availity Essentials portal (preferred method) or fax.

### **Availity Essentials Portal**

Contracted Providers are strongly encouraged to use the Availity Essentials portal for Prior Authorization submissions whenever possible. Instructions for how to submit a Prior Authorization request are available on the Availity Essentials portal. The benefits of submitting your Prior Authorization request through the Availity Essential portal are:

- Create and submit Prior Authorization requests.
- Check status of Prior Authorization requests.
- Receive notification of change in status of Prior Authorization requests.
- Attach medical documentation required for timely medical review and decision-making.

**Fax:** If the provider is unable to use the Availity Essentials portal, the Prior Authorization Request form can be faxed to the appropriate Utilization Management department at these numbers:

<b>Type of PA Request</b>	<b>Fax Number</b>
For Advanced Imaging	(877) 731-7218
For Pharmacy (Part D and Part B drugs and for Medicaid-covered drugs when the Member is in	Part D: (866) 290-1309

Type of PA Request	Fax Number
an integrated plan providing Medicaid wrap benefits, such as a FIDE SNP or an MMP)	Part B (J-Codes): (800) 391-6437
For Medicare Hospital Inpatient Admission and Concurrent Review (Medical/Physical health)	(844) 834-2152
For Medicare Prior Authorization (Medical/Physical and Behavioral health)	(844) 251-1450

Molina’s Nurse Advice Line is available to Members 24/7 year-round at:

**English Phone:** (888) 275-8750

**Spanish Phone:** (866) 648-3537

**English Hearing Impaired (TTY/TDD):** (888) 735-2929

**Spanish Hearing Impaired (TTY/TDD):** (866) 833-4703

Notwithstanding any provision in the Provider Agreement that requires Provider to obtain a Prior Authorization directly from Molina, Molina may choose to contract with external vendors to help manage Prior Authorization requests.

For additional information regarding the Prior Authorization of specialized clinical services, refer to the Prior Authorization tools on the [MolinaHealthcare.com](http://MolinaHealthcare.com) website:

- Prior Authorization Code LookUp Tool.
- Prior Authorization Code Matrix.
- Prior Authorization Guide.

## Affirmative Statement About Incentives

All medical decisions are coordinated and rendered by qualified physicians and licensed clinical staff, unhindered by fiscal or administrative concerns. Molina and its delegated contractors do **not** use incentive arrangements to reward the restriction of medical care to Members.

All health care professionals involved in the UM decision-making process base their decisions solely on appropriateness of care and service and existence of coverage. Molina does **not** reward practitioners or other individuals for issuing denials of coverage or care, and Molina does not provide financial incentives or other types of compensation to encourage decisions that result in underutilization or barriers to care.

## Time Frames

Prior Authorization decisions are made as expeditiously as the Member’s health condition requires and within regulatory time frames. Medicare organization and coverage determination time frames for pre-service requests are:

Type of Pre-Service Request	Time Frame
Expedited (non-Part B, non-Part D drug)	**72 hours – Medicare guidance allows written notice to follow within 3 calendar days after verbal notice to the member
Expedited Part B drug	24 hours
Expedited Part D drug	24 hours
Standard (non-Part B, non-Part D drug)	**14 calendar days
Standard Part B drug	72 hours
Standard Part D drug	72 hours

\*\*Time frames for fully integrated plans such as a FIDE SNP may vary with regulatory and contractual requirements.

Extensions may be allowed under specific conditions (with the exception of requests involving a Part B or Part D drug).

A Provider may request that a UM decision be expedited if following the standard time frame could seriously jeopardize the life or health of the Member or the Member's ability to regain maximum function. Providers must ask that a request be expedited only when this standard is supported by the Member's condition. Vendors are not allowed to expedite without a physician order stating the member requires an expedited time frame.

## Communication of Pre-Service Determinations

Upon approval, the requestor will receive an authorization number. The number may be provided by telephone or fax.

When a pre-authorization request is denied with Member liability, the Member is issued a denial notice informing them of the decision and their appeal rights, with a copy to the Provider. The Member's appeal rights are discussed further in the Medicare Member Grievances and Appeals section of this Provider Manual.

When a pre-authorization request is denied with Provider liability, the Provider is issued a denial notice by fax informing them of the decision. Additional information on the contracted Provider Claims appeal process can be found in the Claim Reconsideration subsection located in the Claims and Compensation section of this Provider Manual.

## Peer-to-Peer Discussions and Reopenings

Contracted Providers may request a Peer-to-Peer conversation with a Molina Medical Director. Once a final adverse decision is made, however, the decision may not be reversed if Member liability is assigned (i.e., the Member is issued a denial notice with Medicare appeal rights), unless the CMS requirements for a reopening are met. CMS allows Medicare Advantage plans to use the reopening

process only sparingly. Requirements for a reopening include clear clerical error, the procurement of new and material evidence that was not available or known at the time of the decision that may result in a different conclusion, or evidence that was considered in making the decision clearly shows on its face that an obvious error was made at the time of the decision (i.e., the decision was clearly incorrect based on all the evidence presented).

Providers may not use the reopening process for the routine submission of additional information. Reopenings are not allowed once an appeal is filed by the Provider or the Member (or their authorized representative). Molina Medical Directors are available prior to the time of the decision to discuss any unique circumstances to be considered in the case.

Adverse decisions for which only provider liability is assigned and that do not involve an adverse determination or liability for the member may be subject to a Peer-to-Peer conversation. A Peer-to-Peer conversation is an opportunity to clarify the clinical information or to provide newly discovered clinical information. Molina will not allow contracted Providers to use the Peer-to-Peer process as a vehicle for routine failure to provide sufficient information in the Utilization Management process or to avoid the contracted Provider claims appeals process. Contracted Providers are responsible for providing all information to support the request within the required time frames.

For additional information on the contracted Provider claims appeals process, see the Claim Reconsideration subsection located in the Claims Compensation section of this Provider Manual.

## **Open Communication About Treatment**

Molina prohibits contracted Providers from limiting Provider or Member communication regarding a Member's health care. Providers may freely communicate with and act as an advocate for their patients. Molina requires provisions within Provider contracts that prohibit solicitation of Members for alternative coverage arrangements for the primary purpose of securing financial gain. No communication regarding treatment options may be represented or construed to expand or revise the scope of benefits under a health plan or insurance contract.

Molina and its contracted Providers may not enter into contracts that interfere with any ethical responsibility or legal right of Providers to discuss information with a Member about the Member's health care. This includes, but is not limited to, treatment options, alternative plans, or other coverage arrangements.

## Utilization Management Functions Performed Exclusively by Molina

The following Utilization Management (UM) functions are conducted by Molina and are **never delegated**:

1. **Transplant**—Molina does **not** delegate management of transplant cases to the medical group. Providers are required to notify Molina's UM Department (Transplant Unit) when the need for a transplant evaluation is identified. Contracted Providers must obtain Prior Authorization from Molina Medicare for transplant evaluations and surgery. Upon notification, Molina conducts Medical Necessity review. Molina selects the facility to be accessed for the evaluation and possible transplant.
2. **Clinical Trials**—Molina does **not** delegate to Providers the authority to authorize payment for services associated with clinical trials. See Clinical Trials below for additional information.
3. **Experimental and Investigational Reviews**—Molina does **not** delegate to Providers the authority to determine and authorize experimental and investigational (E&I) reviews.

### Clinical Trials

National Coverage Determination (NCD) 310.1 provides that Medicare covers the routine costs of qualifying clinical trials (as defined in the NCD), as well as reasonable and necessary items and services used to diagnose and treat complications arising from participation in all clinical trials. All other Medicare rules apply. Routine costs of a clinical trial include all items and services that are otherwise generally available to Medicare beneficiaries that are provided in either the experimental or control arm of a clinical trial except:

- The investigational item or service itself, unless otherwise covered outside of the clinical trial.
- Items and services provided solely to satisfy data collection and analysis needs and that are not used in the direct management of the patient.
- Items and services customarily provided by the research sponsors free of charge for any enrollee in the clinical trial.

Routine costs in clinical trials include:

- Items or services that are typically provided absent a clinical trial.
- Items or services required solely for the provision of the investigational item or service, the clinically appropriate monitoring of the effects of the item or service, or the prevention of complications.
- Items or services needed for reasonable and necessary care arising from the provision of an investigational item or service and, in particular, for the diagnosis or treatment of complications.

For non-covered items and services, including items and services for which Medicare payment is statutorily prohibited, Medicare only covers the treatment of complications arising from the delivery of the non-covered item or service and unrelated to reasonable and necessary care. However, if the item or service is not covered by virtue of a national non-coverage policy (i.e., an NCD) and is the focus of a qualifying clinical trial, the routine costs of the clinical trial will be covered by Medicare but the noncovered item or service itself will not.

Clinical trials must meet qualifying requirements. Additional information on these requirements and the qualifying process can be found in NCD 310.1.

If the Member participates in an unapproved study, the Member will be liable for all costs associated with participation in that study. Members can obtain additional information about coverage for the costs associated with clinical trials and member liability for Medicare cost-sharing amounts in their Evidence of Coverage (EOC) or Member Handbook.

### **Delegated Utilization Management Functions**

Molina may delegate UM functions to qualifying Medical Groups/IPAs and delegated entities. These entities are required to perform these functions in compliance with all current Molina policies and regulatory and certification requirements. For more information about delegated UM functions and the oversight of such delegation, please refer to the Delegation section of this Provider Manual.

### **Emergency Services, Urgent Care, and Post-Stabilization Services**

Molina covers Emergency Services as well as Urgently Needed Services and Post-Stabilization Care for members in accordance with applicable federal and state law.

Medicare defines Emergency Services are covered services provided to evaluate or treat an Emergency Medical Condition. An Emergency Medical Condition is a medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) such that a prudent layperson with an average knowledge of health and medicine could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in:

- Serious jeopardy to the health of the individual or, in the case of a pregnant woman, the health of the woman or her unborn child.
- Serious impairment to bodily functions.
- Serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part.

Urgently Needed Services are covered services that:

- Are not Emergency Services, but are Medically Necessary and immediately required as a result of an unforeseen illness, injury, or condition.
- Are provided when (1) the member is temporarily absent from the Plan's service area and, therefore, the member cannot obtain the needed service from a Network Provider; or (2) when the member is in the Plan's service area but the network is temporarily unavailable or inaccessible.
- Given the circumstances, it was not reasonable for the member to wait to obtain the needed services from their regular Plan Provider after returning to the service area or the network becomes available.

Post-Stabilization Care Services are covered services that are:

- Related to an Emergency Medical Condition.
- Provided after the member is stabilized.
- Provided to maintain the stabilized condition or, under certain circumstances, to improve or resolve the member's condition.

Emergency Services and Urgently Needed Services do not require pre-authorization, although Contracted Provider notification requirements may apply. See Emergency Inpatient Admissions below.

Members overutilizing the Emergency Department may be contacted by Molina Care Managers to provide assistance whenever possible and determine the reason for using Emergency Services.

## **Inpatient Admission Notification and Management**

### **Elective Inpatient Admissions**

Molina requires Prior Authorization for all elective/scheduled inpatient admissions and procedures to any inpatient facility (i.e., including hospitals, SNFs, and other inpatient settings). Contracted SNFs, Long-Term Acute-Care Hospitals (LTACHs), and Acute Inpatient Rehabilitation (AIR) facilities/units must obtain Prior Authorization before admitting the member.

Inpatient facilities are also required to notify Molina of the admission within two business days, or as otherwise specified in the relevant Provider Agreement. Inpatient notifications may be submitted by fax. Contact telephone numbers and fax numbers are provided in the Requesting Prior Authorization section of this Provider Manual.

Continued stay must be supported by clinical documentation supporting the level of care. Failure to obtain Prior Authorization, to provide timely notice of admission, or to support the level of care may result in denial with Provider liability. Members cannot be held liable for failure of a Contracted Provider to follow the terms of the relevant Provider Agreement and this Provider Manual.

For additional information on the contracted Provider Claims appeal process, see the Claim Reconsideration subsection located in the Claims and Compensation section of this Provider Manual.

### **Emergent Inpatient Admissions**

Molina requires notification of all emergent inpatient admissions within two business days, or as otherwise specified in the relevant Provider Agreement. Notification of admission is required to verify eligibility, authorize care, including Level of Care (LOC), and initiate concurrent review and discharge planning. Notification must include Member demographic information, Molina ID number, facility information, date of admission, and clinical information supporting the Level of Care. Notifications may be submitted by fax. Contact telephone numbers and fax numbers are noted in the Requesting Prior Authorization section of this Provider Manual.

Prior Authorization is not required for an observation level of care. Once the Member is stabilized and a request for inpatient admission is made or the observation period expires, Contracted Providers are responsible for supporting an admission Level of Care. Failure to provide timely notice of admission or to support an admission Level of Care may result in a clinical level of care denial with Provider liability. Members cannot be held liable for a Contracted Provider's failure to follow the terms of the relevant Provider Agreement and this Provider Manual.

For additional information on the Contracted Provider claims appeal process, see the Claim Reconsideration subsection located in the Claims and Compensation section of this Provider Manual.

### **Inpatient at Time of Termination of Coverage**

Members hospitalized on the day that Member in the Plan terminates are usually covered through discharge. Specific Plan rules and Provider Agreement provisions may apply.

### **NOTICE Act**

Under the Notice of Observation Treatment and Implication for Care Eligibility Act (NOTICE Act), hospitals (including critical-access hospitals) must deliver the Medicare Outpatient Observation Notice (MOON) to any beneficiary (including a Medicare Advantage enrollee) who receives observation services as an outpatient for more than 24 hours. The MOON is issued to inform the beneficiary that they are an outpatient receiving observation services and not a hospital inpatient. The beneficiary is informed that the services are covered under Part B, and that Part B cost-sharing amounts apply. Additional information is provided to the beneficiary with regard to how an observation



stay may affect their eligibility for a SNF Level of Care, and that Part B does not cover self-administered drugs.

### **Inpatient Concurrent Review**

Molina performs concurrent inpatient review to ensure Medical Necessity of ongoing inpatient services, adequate progress of treatment, and development of appropriate discharge plans. Concurrent review is performed for inpatient stays regardless of setting (i.e., including hospital, SNF, and other inpatient setting), although the cadence and extent of concurrent review may vary depending on the setting and the Member's circumstances. Performing these functions requires timely clinical updates. Molina will request updated clinical records from inpatient facilities at regular intervals during a Member's inpatient stay. Requested clinical updates must be received from the inpatient facility within 24 hours of the request or such other time as may be indicated in the request.

Failure to provide timely clinical updates may result in denial of authorization for the remainder of the inpatient admission, with provider liability dependent on the circumstances and the terms of the relevant Provider Agreement. Members cannot be held liable for a Contracted Provider's failure to follow the terms of the relevant Provider Agreement or this Provider Manual.

Molina will authorize hospital care as an inpatient when the clinical record supports the Medical Necessity of continued hospital stay. An observation level of care should be provided first when appropriate. Upon discharge, the Provider must provide Molina with a copy of Member's discharge summary to include demographic information, date of discharge, discharge plan and instructions, and disposition.

### **Discharge Planning**

The goal of discharge planning is to initiate cost-effective, quality-driven treatment interventions for post-hospital care at the earliest point in the admission. UM staff communicates and works closely with hospital discharge planners to determine the most appropriate discharge setting for our Members. The clinical staff reviews Medical Necessity and appropriateness for home health, infusion therapy, Durable Medical Equipment (DME), Skilled Nursing Facility, and rehabilitative services.

### **Readmissions**

Readmission review is important to ensure that Molina Members are receiving hospital care that is compliant with nationally recognized guidelines as well as federal and state regulations.

When a subsequent admission to the same facility with the same or similar diagnosis occurs within 24 hours of discharge, the hospital will be informed that the readmission will be combined with the initial admission and will be processed as a continued stay.

When a subsequent admission to the same facility occurs within two to 30 days of discharge, and it is determined that the subsequent readmission is related to the first admission (readmission) and determined to be preventable, then a single payment may be considered as payment in full for both the first and second hospital admissions.

## **Out-of-Network Providers and Services**

Molina maintains a contracted network of qualified health care professionals who have undergone a comprehensive credentialing process. Molina requires Members to receive non-emergency medical care within the participating, contracted network of Providers. Services provided by non-contracted Providers must be prior authorized. Exceptions include Emergency Services and Medically Necessary dialysis services obtained by the Member while outside the service area. See the section on Emergency Services, Urgent Care, and Post-Stabilization Services above. When no exception applies, Molina will determine whether Contracted Providers within the service area are willing and able to provide the items or services requested for the Member.

## **Termination of Ongoing Services**

### **Termination of Inpatient Hospital Services**

Hospitals are required by CMS regulations to deliver the Important Message from Medicare (IM, Form CMS-10065), to all Medicare beneficiaries (including Medicare Advantage Enrollees) who are hospital inpatients within two calendar days of admission. This requirement is applicable to all hospitals regardless of payment type or specialty. Delivery must be made to the Member or the Member's authorized representative in accordance with CMS guidelines. A follow-up copy of the IM is delivered no more than two calendar days before the planned discharge date.

The IM informs Beneficiaries of their rights as a hospital inpatient, including their right to appeal the decision to discharge. Hospitals must deliver the IM in accordance with CMS guidelines, and must obtain the signature of the Beneficiary or authorized representative and provide a copy at that time. When the Member is no longer meeting criteria for continued inpatient stay and the hospital has not initiated discharge planning, Molina may require that the hospital issue a follow-up copy of the IM and notify the Member of their discharge date or provide additional clinical information supporting an inpatient

level of care. Failure to do so may result in the denial of continued hospital services with Provider liability. The Member cannot be held liable for any continued care (aside from any applicable deductibles or copayments) without proper notification that includes their appeal rights located within the IM and if the Member exercises their appeal rights, not until noon of the day after the QIO notifies the Member of a determination adverse to the Member.

When the Member exercises their appeal rights with the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO), the hospital is required to properly complete and deliver the Detailed Notice of Discharge (DND, Form CMS-10066) to the QIO and the Member as soon as possible, and no later than noon following the day of the QIO's notification to the hospital of the appeal. The hospital is also required to provide all information that the QIO requires to make its determination. At the Member's request, the hospital must provide to the Member a copy of all information provided to the QIO, including written records of any information provided by telephone. This documentation must be provided to the Member no later than close of business of the first day that the Member makes the request.

The exhaustion of a Member's covered Part A hospital days is not considered to be a discharge for purposes of issuing the IM.

### **Termination of SNF, CORF, and HHA Services**

The Notice of Medicare Non-Coverage (NOMNC) is a statutorily required notice issued to Medicare Beneficiaries to inform them of the termination of ongoing services (discharge) by a SNF (including hospital swing beds providing Part A and Part B services), Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF) or Home Health Agency (HHA). The NOMNC also provides the Beneficiary with their appeal rights for the termination of services. The NOMNC must be delivered to the Member or the Member's authorized representative in accordance with CMS guidelines and at least two days prior to discharge (or the next to the last time services are furnished, in the case of CORF or HHA services).

When Molina makes a determination that the Member's continued services are no longer skilled and discharge is appropriate, a valid NOMNC is sent to the Contracted Provider (SNF and CORF) for delivery with a designation of the last covered day. Contracted Providers are responsible for delivering the NOMNC on behalf of Molina to the Member or Member representative, and for obtaining signature(s) in accordance with CMS guidelines. The contracted Provider must provide Molina with a copy of the signed NOMNC. If the Member appeals the discharge to the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO), the Contracted Provider must also provide the QIO with a signed copy of the NOMNC and all relevant clinical information. The Member cannot be held liable for any care

(aside from any applicable deductibles or copayments) without proper notification that includes their appeal rights located in the NOMNC and, if the Member exercises their appeal rights, not before the appeal process with the QIO is complete. If the QIO's decision is favorable to the Member, the Member cannot be held liable until a proper NOMNC is issued and the Member is given their appeal rights again. Failure of the Contracted Provider to complete the notification timely and in accordance with CMS guidelines, or to provide information timely to the QIO, may result in the assignment of Provider liability. Members cannot be held responsible for the Contracted Provider's failure to follow the terms of the relevant Provider Agreement or the Provider Manual.

A NOMNC is not issued in the following instances:

- When services are reduced (e.g., when a Member is receiving physical therapy and occupational therapy from a Home Health Agency and only the occupational therapy is terminated).
- When the Member moves to a higher level of care (e.g., from home health to SNF).
- When the Member exhausts their Medicare benefit.
- When the Member terminates services on their own initiative.
- When the Member transfers to another Provider at the same level of care (e.g., a move from one SNF to another while remaining in a Medicare-covered stay).
- When the Provider terminates services for business reasons (e.g., the Member is receiving home health services but has a dangerous animal on the premises).

## **Coordination of Care and Services**

Molina HCS staff members work with Providers to assist with coordinating referrals, services, and benefits for Members who have been identified for Molina's Integrated Care Management (ICM) program via assessment, or referral such as self-referral, Provider referral, etc. In addition, the coordination of care process assists Molina Members, as necessary, in transitioning to other care when benefits end.

Molina staff members provide an integrated approach to care needs by assisting Members with identification of resources available, such as community programs, national support groups, appropriate specialists and facilities, identifying best practice, or new and innovative approaches to care. Care coordination by Molina staff is done in partnership with Providers, Members and/or their authorized representative(s) to ensure efforts are efficient and non-duplicative.

Providers must offer the opportunity to provide assistance to identified Members through:

- Notification of community resources, local or state-funded agencies.
- Education about alternative care.
- How to obtain care as appropriate.

### **Continuity of Care and Transition of Members**

It is Molina's policy to provide Members with advance notice when a Provider they are seeing will no longer be in-network. Members and Providers are encouraged to use this time to transition care to an in-network Provider. The Provider leaving the network shall provide all appropriate information related to course of treatment, medical treatment, etc. to the Provider(s) assuming care.

Under certain circumstances, Members may be able to continue treatment with the out-of-network Provider for a given period of time and provide continued services to Members undergoing a course of treatment by a Provider that has terminated their contractual agreement if the following conditions exist at the time of termination:

- Acute condition or serious chronic condition—Following termination, the terminated Provider will continue to provide covered services to the Member up to 90 days, or longer if necessary, for a safe transfer to another Provider as determined by Molina or its delegated Medical Group/IPA.
- High-risk of second- or third-trimester pregnancy—The terminated Provider will continue to provide services following termination until postpartum services related to delivery are completed, or longer if necessary, for a safe transfer.

For additional information regarding continuity of care and transition of Members, please contact Molina at **(855) 866-5462**.

### **Continuity and Coordination of Provider Communication**

Molina stresses the importance of timely communication between Providers involved in a Member's care. This is especially critical between specialists, including Behavioral Health (BH) Providers and the Member's PCP. Information should be shared in such a manner as to facilitate communication of urgent needs or significant findings.

### **Reporting of Suspected Abuse and/or Neglect**

A vulnerable adult is a person who is or receiving or may be in need of receiving community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness, and who is or may be unable to take care of themselves or unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation. When working with children,

one may encounter situations suggesting abuse, neglect, and/or unsafe living environments.

Every person who knows or has reasonable suspicion that a child or adult is being abused or neglected **must** report the matter immediately. Specific professionals mentioned under the law as mandated reporters are:

- Physicians, dentists, interns, residents, or nurses.
- Public or private school employees or childcare givers.
- Psychologists, social workers, family protection workers, or family protection specialists.
- Attorneys, ministers, or law enforcement officers.

If you believe anyone is in immediate danger, **call 911 first**. All critical incidents and cases of suspected abuse and/or neglect should be reported to the Molina Quality team:

**Phone:** (855) 866-5462

**Fax:** (855) 556-2074

**Email:** [MHIL-QI@molinahealthcare.com](mailto:MHIL-QI@molinahealthcare.com)

Suspected abuse and/or neglect should be reported to government agencies as follows:

### Child Abuse

For Members who are under the age of 18 and living in the community, reports go to the Illinois Child Abuse Hotline (Department of Children and Family Services) 24/7 year-round at **(800) 252-2873** or TTY **(800) 358-5117**. Doing so complies with the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act 325 ILCS 5/1 et seq. Call if you suspect that a child has been harmed or is at risk of being harmed by abuse or neglect. If you believe a child is in immediate danger, **call 911 first**.

### Adult Abuse

For Members who are age 18 and older and living in the community, reports go to the Illinois Department on Aging via the Adult Protective Services Hotline number at **(866) 800-1409** or TTY **(800) 206-1327**. This complies with the Adult Protective Services Act 320 ILCS 20/1-1 et seq., the Abuse of Adults with Disabilities Intervention Act 20 ILCS 2435/1 et seq., and the Elder Abuse and Neglect Act 320 ILCS 20/1 et seq.

For Members residing in Supportive Living Facilities (SLF), reports go to the Department of Healthcare and Family Services' SLF Complaint Hotline at **(800) 226-0768**. This complies with the 89 Ill. Adm. Code, Section 146.305 for

Reporting of Suspected Abuse, Neglect, and Financial Exploitation in Specialized Health Care Delivery Systems through the Department of Healthcare and Family Services Medical Programs.

For Members aged 18 to 59 receiving mental health or Developmental Disability services in DHS operated, licensed, certified, or funded programs, use the Illinois Department of Human Services Office of the Inspector General Hotline at **(800) 368-1463** (voice and TTY). Doing so complies with the Department of Human Services Act 20 ILCS 1305/1-1 et seq.

For Members who are residing in Nursing Facilities, reports go to the Department of Public Health's Nursing Home Complaint Hotline at **(800) 252-4343**. This complies with the Abused and Neglected Long Term Care Facility Residents Reporting Act 210 ILCS 30/1 et seq.

To report suspected abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation of an adult age 60 or older or a person with disabilities age 18 to 59, call the statewide, 24-hour Adult Protective Services Hotline at **(866) 800-1409 or TTY (888) 206-1327**.

Molina's HCS teams will work with PCPs and Medical Groups/IPAs, and other delegated entities who are obligated to communicate with each other when there is a concern that a Member is being abused. Final actions are taken by the PCP/Medical Group/IPA, other delegated entities, or other clinical personnel. Under state and federal law, a person participating in good faith in making a report or testifying about alleged abuse, neglect, abandonment, financial exploitation, or self-neglect of a vulnerable adult in a judicial or administrative proceeding may be immune from liability resulting from the report or testimony.

Molina will follow up with Members who are reported to have been abused, exploited, or neglected to ensure appropriate measures were taken and follow up on safety issues. Molina will track, analyze, and report aggregate information regarding abuse reporting to the Health Care Services Committee and the proper state agency.

## Primary Care Providers

Molina provides a panel of PCPs to care for its Members. Providers in the specialties of Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, and Obstetrics and Gynecology are eligible to serve as PCPs. Members may choose a PCP or have one selected for them by Molina. Molina's Medicare Members are required to see a PCP who is part of the Molina Medicare Network. Molina's Medicare Members may select or change their PCP by contacting Molina's Member Contact Center.

## Specialty Providers

Molina maintains a network of specialty Providers to care for its Members. Some specialty care Providers may require a referral for a Member to receive specialty services; however, no Prior Authorization is required to see a specialist within the network. Members are allowed to directly access women health specialists within the network for routine and preventive health without a referral for services.

Referrals to specialty care outside the network require Prior Authorization from Molina. Molina will assist in ensuring access for second opinions from in-network and out-of-network providers, as applicable.

## Care Management (CM)

The Integrated Care Management (ICM) Program provides care coordination and health education for disease management, as well as identifies and addresses psychosocial barriers to accessing care with the goal of promoting high-quality care that aligns with a Member's individual health care goals. Care Management focuses on the delivery of quality, cost-effective, and appropriate health care services for Members. Members may receive health risk assessments that help identify physical health, behavioral health, medication management problems, and Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) to target high-needs Members who would benefit from more intensive support and education from a Care Manager. Additionally, functional, social support, and health literacy deficits are assessed, as well as safety concerns and caregiver needs.

The role of the Care Manager includes:

- Coordination of quality and cost-effective services.
- Appropriate application of benefits.
- Promotion of early, intensive interventions in the least restrictive setting of the Member's choice.
- Assistance with transitions between care settings and/or Providers.
- Provision of accurate and up-to-date information to Providers regarding completed health assessments and care plans.
- Creation of ICPs, updated as the Member's conditions, needs, and/or health status change.
- Facilitation of Interdisciplinary Care Team (ICT) meetings as needed.
- Promotion of utilization of multidisciplinary clinical, behavioral, and rehabilitative services.
- Referral to, assessment of, and coordination of appropriate resources and support services, including but not limited to Long-Term Services & Supports (LTSS).



- Attention to Member preference and satisfaction.
- Attention to the handling of Protected Health Information (PHI) and maintaining confidentiality.
- Provision of ongoing analysis and evaluation of the Member's progress toward ICP adherence.
- Protection of Member rights.
- Promotion of Member responsibility and self-management.

Referral to Care Management may be made by any of the following entities:

- Member or Member's designated representative(s).
- Member's Primary Care Provider.
- Specialists.
- Hospital staff.
- Home Health staff.
- Molina staff.

## 9. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

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### Overview

Molina provides a Behavioral Health benefit for Members. Molina takes an integrated, collaborative approach to behavioral health care, encouraging participation from PCPs, Behavioral Health, and other specialty Providers to ensure “whole person” care. All provisions within the Provider Manual are applicable to medical and Behavioral Health Providers unless otherwise noted in this section.

### Utilization Management and Prior Authorization

Behavioral Health inpatient and residential services can be requested by submitting a Prior Authorization form or contacting Molina’s Prior Authorization team at **(855) 866-5462** Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central Time, (excluding state and federal holidays). Providers requesting after-hours authorization for these services should use the Availity Essentials portal (preferred method) or fax submission options. Emergency psychiatric services do **not** require Prior Authorization.

All requests for Behavioral Health services should include the most current version of Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) classification. Molina utilizes standard, generally accepted Medical Necessity criteria for Prior Authorization reviews. Please see the Prior Authorization subsection found in the Health Care Services section of this Provider Manual for additional information.

### Access to Behavioral Health Providers and PCPs

Members may be directed to an in-network Behavioral Health Provider by a PCP or by Member self-referral. PCPs are able to screen and assess Members for the detection and treatment of, or referral for, any known or suspected Behavioral Health problems and disorders. PCPs may provide any clinically appropriate Behavioral Health service within the scope of their practice. A formal referral form or Prior Authorization is **not** needed for a Member to self-refer or be referred to a PCP or Behavioral Health Provider.

Behavioral Health Providers may direct a Member to an in-network PCP, or a Member may self-refer. Members may be directed to PCP and specialty care Providers to manage their health care needs. Behavioral Health Providers may identify other health concerns, including physical health concerns, that should be addressed by directing the Member to a PCP.

## Care Coordination and Continuity of Care

### Discharge Planning

Discharge planning begins upon admission to an inpatient or residential behavioral health facility. Members who were admitted to an inpatient or residential behavioral health setting must have an adequate outpatient follow-up appointment scheduled with a Behavioral Health Provider prior to discharge.

### Interdisciplinary Care Coordination

In order to provide care for the whole person, Molina emphasizes the importance of collaboration among all Providers on the Member's treatment team. Behavioral Health, Primary Care, and other specialty Providers shall collaborate and coordinate care between each other for the benefit of the Member. Collaboration of the treatment team will increase communication of valuable clinical information, enhance the Member's experience with service delivery, and create opportunity for optimal health outcomes. Molina's Care Management program may assist in coordinating care and communication among all Providers of a Member's treatment team.

### Care Management

Molina's Care Management (CM) team includes licensed nurses and clinicians with behavioral health experience to support Members with mental health and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) needs. Members with high-risk psychiatric, medical, or psychosocial needs may be referred by a Behavioral Health Provider to the CM program.

Referrals to the CM program may be made by contacting Molina at:

**Email:** [Medicare\\_CM\\_Team@MolinaHealthcare.com](mailto:Medicare_CM_Team@MolinaHealthcare.com)

**Phone:** (855) 687-7861

Additional information on the CM program can be found in the Care Management subsection found in the Health Care Services section of this Provider Manual.

## Responsibilities of Behavioral Health Providers

Molina promotes collaboration between Providers, and integration of both physical and behavioral health services in effort to provide quality care coordination to Members. Behavioral Health Providers are expected to provide in-scope, evidence-based mental health and SUD services to Molina Members. Behavioral Health Providers may only provide physical health care services if they are licensed to do so.

Providers shall follow quality standards related to access. Molina provides oversight of Providers to ensure Members are able to obtain needed health services within the acceptable appointment time frames. Please see the Quality section of this Provider Manual for specific access to appointment details.

Molina Healthcare requires patients in all inpatient hospital settings to be seen by an appropriate physician (MD/DO) or advanced practice nurse every day. Face-to-face visits are preferred; however, telehealth visits may be used under certain circumstances. Refer to the Telehealth section.

- For behavioral health/mental health care, the provider seeing the member daily **must** be a psychiatrist (MD/DO) or a certified mental health nurse practitioner.
- Any inpatient stay that does not have a face-to-face evaluation by an appropriate physician or advanced practice nurse will result in denial of the day the member did not receive this level of care.

All Members receiving inpatient psychiatric services **must** be scheduled for a psychiatric outpatient appointment prior to discharge. The aftercare outpatient appointment **must** include the specific time, date, location, and name of the Provider. This appointment **must** occur within seven days of the discharge date. If a Member misses a behavioral health appointment, the Behavioral Health Provider shall contact the Member within 24 hours of a missed appointment to reschedule.

## Behavioral Health Crisis Line

Molina has a Behavioral Health Crisis Line that may be accessed by Members 24/7 year-round. The Molina Behavioral Health Crisis Line is staffed by behavioral health clinicians to provide urgent crisis intervention, emergent referrals, and/or triage to appropriate supports, resources, and emergency response teams. Members experiencing psychological distress may access the Behavioral Health Crisis Line by calling the 24-Hour Nurse Advice Line as listed on the back of the Molina Member ID card:

**English Phone:** (888) 275-8750

**Spanish Phone:** (866) 648-3537

**English Hearing Impaired (TTY/TDD):** (866) 648-3537

**Spanish Hearing Impaired (TTY/TDD):** (866) 833-4703

## National Suicide Lifeline

The National Suicide Lifeline is reached by **dialing 988**. Anyone in need of suicide or mental health crisis support (or anyone worried about someone else), can receive free and confidential support 24/7 year-round by **dialing 988** from any phone.

## Behavioral Health Toolkit for Providers

Molina has developed an online [Behavioral Health Toolkit](#) to provide support with screening, assessment, and diagnosis of common behavioral health conditions, plus access to Behavioral Health HEDIS® Tip Sheets and other evidence-based guidance, and recommendations for coordinating care. The material within this toolkit is applicable to Providers in both primary care and behavioral health settings. The [Behavioral Health Toolkit](#) for Providers can be found under the Health Resources tab on the [MolinaHealthcare.com](https://MolinaHealthcare.com) Provider website.

## 10. QUALITY

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### Maintaining Quality Improvement Processes and Programs

Molina works with Members and Providers to maintain a comprehensive Quality Improvement Program. You can contact the Molina Quality department toll free at **(855) 866-5462** or fax **(855) 556-2074**. Mail requests:

Molina Healthcare of Illinois, Inc.  
Quality Department  
2001 Butterfield Rd., Suite 750  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

This Provider Manual contains excerpts from the Molina Quality Improvement Program. For a complete copy of Molina's Quality Improvement Program, contact your Provider Network Manager or call the telephone number above to receive a written copy.

Molina has established a Quality Improvement Program that complies with regulatory requirements and accreditation standards. The Quality Improvement Program provides structure and outlines specific activities designed to improve the care, service, and health of our Members. In our quality program description, we describe our program governance, scope, goals, measurable objectives, structure, and responsibilities.

Molina does not delegate Quality Improvement activities to Medical Groups/IPAs. However, Molina requires contracted Medical Groups/IPAs to comply with the following core elements and standards of care. Molina Medical Groups/IPAs must:

- Have a Quality Improvement Program in place.
- Comply with and participate in Molina's Quality Improvement Program, including reporting of Access and Availability survey and activity results and provision of medical records as part of the HEDIS® review process and during potential Quality of Care and/or Critical Incident investigations.
- Cooperate with Molina's quality improvement activities that are designed to improve quality of care and services, as well as Member experience.
- Allow Molina to collect, use, and evaluate data related to Provider performance for quality improvement activities, including but not limited to focus areas, such as clinical care, care coordination and management, service, and access and availability.
- Allow access to Molina Quality personnel for site and medical record review processes.

## Patient Safety Program

Molina's Patient Safety Program identifies appropriate safety projects and error avoidance for Molina Members in collaboration with their PCPs. Molina continues to support safe personal health practices for our Members through our Safety Program, Pharmaceutical Management, and Care Management/Disease Management Programs and education. Molina monitors nationally recognized quality index ratings for facilities, including Adverse Events and hospital-acquired conditions, as part of a national strategy to improve health care quality mandated by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), Health and Human Services (HHS) to identify areas that have the potential for improving health care quality to reduce the incidence of events.

The Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 mandates that the Office of Inspector General report to Congress regarding the incidence of "Never Events" among Medicare beneficiaries, the payment for services in connection with such events, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) processes to identify events and deny payment.

## Quality of Care

Molina has established a systematic process to identify, investigate, review, and report any Quality of Care, Adverse Event/Never Event, Critical Incident (as applicable), and/or service issues affecting Member care. Molina will research, resolve, track, and trend issues. Confirmed Adverse Events/Never Events are reportable when related to an error in medical care that is clearly identifiable, preventable, and/or is found to have caused serious injury or death to a patient. Some examples of Never Events include:

- Surgery on the wrong body part.
- Surgery on the wrong patient.
- Wrong surgery on a patient.

Molina is **not** required to pay for inpatient care related to "never events."

## Medical Records

Molina requires that medical records are maintained in a manner that is current, detailed, and organized to ensure that care rendered to Members is consistently documented and that necessary information is readily available in the medical record. All entries will be indelibly added to the Member's record. PCPs should maintain the following medical record components, that include but are not limited to:

- Medical record confidentiality and release of medical records within medical and behavioral health care records.

- Medical record content and documentation standards, including preventive health care.
- Storage, maintenance, and disposal processes.
- Process for archiving medical records and implementing improvement activities.

## Medical Record Keeping Practices

Below is a list of the minimum items necessary in the maintenance of the Member's Medical records:

- Each patient has a separate record.
- Medical records are stored away from patient areas and preferably locked.
- Medical records are available at each visit, and archived records are available within 24 hours.
- If hard copy, pages are securely attached in the medical record, and records are organized by dividers or color-coded when thickness of the record dictates.
- If electronic, all those with access have individual passwords.
- Record-keeping is monitored for quality and HIPAA compliance.
- Storage maintenance for the determined timeline and disposal per record management processes.
- Process for archiving medical records and implementing improvement activities.
- Medical records are kept confidential, and there is a process for release of medical records including behavioral health care records.

## Content

Providers must remain consistent in their practices with Molina's medical record documentation guidelines. Medical records are maintained and should include the following information:

- Each page in the record contains the patient's name or Molina ID number.
- Member name, date of birth, sex, marital status, address, employer, home and work telephone numbers, and emergency contact.
- Legible signatures and credentials of Provider and other staff members within a paper chart.
- All Providers who participate in the Member's care.
- Information about services delivered by these Providers.
- A problem list that describes the Member's medical and behavioral health conditions.
- Presenting complaints, diagnoses, and treatment plans, including follow-up visits and referrals to other Providers.



- Prescribed medications, including dosages and dates of initial or refill prescriptions.
- Medication reconciliation within 30 days of an inpatient discharge should include evidence of current and discharge medication reconciliation and the date performed.
- Allergies and adverse reactions (or notation that none are known).
- Documentation that Advance Directives, Power of Attorney, and Living Will have been discussed with Member, and a copy of Advance Directives when in place.
- Past medical and surgical history, including physical examinations, treatments, preventive services, and risk factors.
- Treatment plans that are consistent with diagnosis.
- A working diagnosis that is recorded with the clinical findings.
- Pertinent history for the presenting problem.
- Pertinent physical exam for the presenting problem.
- Lab and other diagnostic tests that are ordered as appropriate by the Provider.
- Clear and thorough progress notes that state the intent for all ordered services and treatments.
- Notations regarding follow-up care, calls, or visits. The specific time of return is noted in weeks, months, or as needed, included in the next preventive care visit when appropriate.
- Notes from consultants, if applicable.
- Up-to-date immunization records and documentation of appropriate history.
- All staff and Provider notes are signed physically or electronically with either name or initials.
- All entries are dated.
- All abnormal lab/imaging results show explicit follow up plan(s).
- All ancillary services reports.
- Documentation of all emergency care provided in any setting.
- Documentation of all hospital admissions, inpatient and outpatient, including the hospital discharge summaries, hospital history and physicals, and operative report.
- Labor and delivery record for any child seen since birth.
- A signed document stating with whom protected health information may be shared.

## **Organization**

- The medical record is legible to someone other than the writer.
- Each patient has an individual record.
- Chart pages are bound, clipped, or attached to the file.
- Chart sections are easily recognized for retrieval of information.

- A release document for each Member authorizing Molina to release medical information for facilitation of medical care.

## **Retrieval**

- The medical record is available to Provider at each encounter.
- The medical record is available to Molina for purposes of quality improvement.
- The medical record is available to the applicable state and/or federal agency and the external quality review organization upon request.
- The medical record is available to the Member upon their request.
- A storage system for inactive Member medical records that allows retrieval within 24 hours, is consistent with state and federal requirements, and the record is maintained for not less than 10 years from the last date of treatment—or for a minor, one year past Member’s 20th birthday, but never less than 10 years.
- An established and functional data recovery procedure in the event of data loss.

## **Confidentiality**

Molina Providers shall develop and implement confidentiality procedures to guard Member Protected Health Information (PHI) in accordance with HIPAA privacy standards and all other applicable federal and state regulations. This should include, and is not limited to:

- Ensure that medical information is released only in accordance with applicable federal or state law in pursuant to court orders or subpoenas.
- Maintain records and information in an accurate and timely manner.
- Ensure timely access by Members to the records and information that pertain to them.
- Abide by all federal and state laws regarding confidentiality and disclosure of medical records or other health and enrollment information.
- Medical Records are protected from unauthorized access.
- Access to computerized confidential information is restricted.
- Precautions are taken to prevent inadvertent or unnecessary disclosure of protected health information.
- Education and training for all staff on handling and maintaining protected health care information.

Additional information on medical records is available from your local Molina Quality department. For additional information regarding HIPAA, see the Compliance section of this Provider Manual.

## Advance Directives (Patient Self-Determination Act)

Molina complies with the Advance Directives requirements of the states in which the organization provides services. Responsibilities include ensuring Members receive information regarding Advance Directives and that contracted Providers and facilities uphold executed documents.

Advance Directives are a written choice for health care. Illinois has four types of Advance Directives:

- **Health Care Power of Attorney**—Allows an agent to be appointed to carry out health care decisions.
- **Living Will**—Allows choices about withholding or withdrawing life support and accepting or refusing nutrition and/or hydration.
- **Do-Not-Resuscitate Order (DNR)**—A medical order stating that cardiopulmonary resuscitation cannot be performed if the heart or breathing stops.
- **Mental Health Treatment Preference Declaration**—Allows the Member to state whether they want to receive electroconvulsive treatment or psychotropic medicine.

## In the Absence of Advance Directives

The Member's family and Provider will work together to decide on the best care for the Member based on information they may know about the Member's end-of-life plans.

Providers must inform adult Molina Members 18 years old and up of their right to make health care decisions and execute Advance Directives. It is important that Members are informed about Advance Directives.

Members who would like more information are instructed to contact Member Services or are directed to the CaringInfo website at [caringinfo.org](http://caringinfo.org) for forms available to download. Additionally, the Molina website offers information to both Providers and Members regarding Advance Directives, with a link to forms that can be downloaded and printed.

PCPs must discuss Advance Directives with a Member and provide appropriate medical advice if the Member desires guidance or assistance.

Molina network Providers and facilities are expected to communicate any objections they may have to a Member directive prior to service when possible. Members may select a new PCP if the assigned Provider has an objection to the Member's desired decision. Molina will facilitate finding a new PCP or specialist as needed.

In no event may any Provider refuse to treat a Member or otherwise discriminate against a Member because the Member has completed an Advance Directive. CMS law gives Members the right to file a complaint with Molina or the state's survey and certification agency if the Member is dissatisfied with Molina's handling of Advance Directives and/or if a Provider fails to comply with Advance Directive instructions.

Molina will notify the Provider via fax of an individual Member's Advance Directives identified through Care Management, or Care Coordination. Providers are instructed to document the presence of an Advance Directive in a prominent location of the medical record. Auditors will also look for copies of the Advance Directives form. Advance Directives forms are state specific to meet state regulations.

Molina will look for documented evidence of the discussion between the Provider and the Member during routine medical record reviews.

### Access to Care

Molina maintains Access to Care standards and processes for ongoing monitoring of access to health care (including behavioral health care) provided by contracted PCPs (adult and pediatric) and participating specialists. Providers surveyed include OB-GYN (high-volume specialists), Oncologist (high-impact specialists), and Behavioral Health Providers. Providers are required to conform to the Access to Care appointment standards listed below to ensure that health care services are provided in a timely manner. The standards are based on 80% availability for Emergency Services and 80% or greater for all other services. The PCP or their designee must be available to Members 24/7 year-round.

### Appointment Access

All Providers who oversee the Member's health care are responsible for providing the following appointments to Molina Members in the time frames noted.

### Medical Appointment

Appointment Types	Standard
Routine, Asymptomatic	Within 30 calendar days
Routine, Symptomatic	Within 7 calendar days
Urgent Care	Within 24 hours
After Hours Care	24/7 availability
Specialty Care (High Volume)	Within 20–30 calendar days
Specialty Care (High Impact)	Within 20–30 calendar days
Urgent Specialty Care	Within 24 hours

## Behavioral Health Appointment

Appointment Types	Standard
Life-Threatening Emergency	Immediately
Non-Life-Threatening Emergency	Within 6 hours
Urgent Care	Within 48 hours
Initial Routine Care Visit	Within 10 business days
Follow-Up Routine Care Visit	Within 30 calendar days

Additional information on appointment access standards is available from Molina's Quality department.

### Office Wait Time

For scheduled appointments, the wait time in offices should not exceed 60 minutes. All PCPs are required to monitor waiting times and adhere to this standard.

### After Hours

All Providers must have backup (on call) coverage after hours, or during the Provider's absence or unavailability. Molina requires Providers to maintain a 24-hour telephone service, seven days per week. This access may be through an answering service or a recorded message after office hours. The service or recorded message should instruct Members with an Emergency to hang up and **call 911** or go immediately to the nearest emergency room. Voicemail alone after-hours is not acceptable.

### Women's Health Access

Molina allows Members the option to seek obstetric and gynecological care from an in-network obstetrician or gynecologist, or directly from a participating PCP designated by Molina as providing obstetrical and gynecological services. Member access to obstetrical and gynecological services is monitored to ensure Members have direct access to Participating Providers for obstetrical and gynecological services. Gynecological services must be provided when requested regardless of the gender status of the Member.

Additional information on access to care is available from Molina's Quality department.

### Monitoring Access for Compliance with Standards

Access to care standards are reviewed, revised as necessary, and approved by the Quality Improvement Committee on an annual basis.

Provider Network adherence to access standards is monitored via one or more of the following mechanisms:

1. Provider access studies—Provider office assessment of appointment availability, after-hours access, Provider ratios, and geographic access.
2. Member complaint data—Assessment of Member complaints related to access and availability of care.
3. Member satisfaction survey—Evaluation of Members' self-reported satisfaction with appointment and after-hours access.

Analysis of access data includes assessment of performance against established standards, review of trends over time, and identification of barriers. Results of analysis are reported to the Quality Improvement Committee at least annually for review and determination of opportunities for improvement. Corrective actions are initiated when performance goals are not met and for identified Provider-specific and/or organizational trends. Performance goals are reviewed and approved annually by the Quality Improvement Committee.

## Quality of Provider Office Sites

Molina Providers are to maintain standards of office-site and medical record-keeping practices. Molina continually monitors Member appeals and complaints/grievances for all office sites to determine the need of an office site visit and will conduct office site visits as needed. Molina assesses the quality, safety, and accessibility of office sites where care is delivered against standards and thresholds. A standard survey form is completed at the time of each visit. This includes an assessment of:

- Physical Accessibility.
- Physical Appearance.
- Adequacy of Waiting and Examining Room Space.

### Physical Accessibility

Molina evaluates office sites, as applicable, to ensure that Members have safe and appropriate access to the office site. This access includes, but is not limited to, ease of entry into the building, accessibility of space within the office site, and ease of access for patients with physical disabilities.

### Physical Appearance

The site visits include, but are not limited to, an evaluation of office site cleanliness, appropriateness of lighting, and patient safety as needed.

### Adequacy of Waiting and Examining Room Space

During the site visit as required, Molina assesses waiting and examining room spaces to ensure that the office offers appropriate accommodations to

Members. The evaluation includes, but is not limited to, appropriate seating in the waiting room areas and availability of exam tables in exam rooms.

## **Administration & Confidentiality of Facilities**

Facilities contracted with Molina must demonstrate an overall compliance with the guidelines listed below:

- Office appearance demonstrates that housekeeping and maintenance are performed appropriately on a regular basis, the waiting room is well-lit, office hours are posted, and parking area and walkways demonstrate appropriate maintenance.
- Accessible parking is available, the building and exam rooms are accessible with an incline ramp or flat entryway, and the restroom is accessible with a bathroom grab bar.
- Adequate seating includes space for an average number of patients in an hour, and a minimum of two office exam rooms per Provider.
- Basic emergency equipment is located in an easily accessible area. This includes a pocket mask and epinephrine, plus any other medications appropriate to the practice.
- At least one CPR-certified employee is available.
- Yearly OSHA training (fire, safety, blood-borne pathogens, etc.) is documented for offices with 10 or more employees.
- A container for sharps is located in each room where injections are given.
- Labeled containers, policies, contracts, and evidence of a hazardous waste management system in place.
- Patient check-in systems are confidential. Signatures on fee slips, separate forms, stickers, or labels are possible alternative methods.
- Confidential information is discussed away from patients. When reception areas are unprotected by sound barriers, scheduling and triage phones are best placed at another location.
- Medical records are stored away from patient areas. Record rooms and/or file cabinets are preferably locked.
- A CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments) waiver is displayed when the appropriate lab work is run in the office.
- Prescription pads are not kept in exam rooms.
- Narcotics are locked, preferably double-locked. Medication and sample access are restricted.
- A system is in place to ensure expired sample medications are not dispensed, and injectables and emergency medication are checked monthly for outdates.
- Drug refrigerator temperatures are documented daily.

## **Monitoring for Compliance with Standards**

Molina monitors compliance with the established performance standards as outlined above at least annually. Performance below Molina's standards may result in a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) with a request that the Provider submit a written corrective action plan to Molina within 30 calendar days. Follow-ups to ensure resolution are conducted at regular intervals until compliance is achieved. The information and any response made by the Provider are included in the Provider's permanent credentials file. If compliance is not attained at follow-up, an updated CAP will be required. Providers who do not submit a CAP may be terminated from network participation or closed to new Members.

## **Quality Improvement Activities and Programs**

Molina maintains an active Quality Improvement Program. The Quality Improvement Program provides structure and key processes to carry out our ongoing commitment to improvement of care and service. The goals identified are based on an evaluation of programs and services; regulatory, contractual, and accreditation requirements; and strategic planning initiatives.

## **Health Management and Care Management**

The Molina Health Management and Care Management Programs provide for the identification, assessment, stratification, and implementation of appropriate interventions for Members with chronic diseases.

For additional information, please see the Health Management and Care Management headings in the Health Care Services section of this Provider Manual.

## **Clinical Practice Guidelines**

Molina adopts and disseminates Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) to reduce inter-Provider variation in diagnosis and treatment. CPG adherence is measured at least annually. All guidelines are based on scientific evidence, review of medical literature, and/or appropriately established authority. Clinical Practice Guidelines are reviewed at least annually and more frequently as needed, when clinical evidence changes and is approved by the Quality Improvement Committee.

Molina Clinical Practice Guidelines include the following:

- Acute Stress and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Anxiety/Panic Disorder
- Asthma
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Autism



- Bipolar Disorder
- Children with Special Health Care Needs
- Chronic Kidney Disease
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
- Depression
- Diabetes
- Heart Failure in Adults
- Homelessness-Special Health Care Needs
- Hypertension
- Obesity
- Opioid Management
- Perinatal Care
- Pregnancy Management
- Schizophrenia
- Sickle Cell Disease
- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Suicide Risk
- Trauma-Informed Primary Care

The adopted CPGs are distributed to the appropriate Providers, Provider groups, staff model facilities, delegates, and Members by the Quality, Provider Network Management, Health Education, and Member Services departments. The guidelines are disseminated through Provider newsletters, electronic Provider bulletins, and other media and are available on the Molina website. Individual Providers or Members may request copies from the Molina Quality department.

## Preventive Health Guidelines

Molina provides coverage of diagnostic preventive procedures based on recommendations published by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), Bright Futures/American Academy of Pediatrics, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in accordance with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) guidelines. Diagnostic preventive procedures include but are not limited to:

- Adult Preventive Services Recommendations
- Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care
- Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule for ages 19 Years or Older, United States, 2021
- Recommended Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule for ages 18 years or younger, United States, 2021

All guidelines are updated at least annually and more frequently, as needed when clinical evidence changes, and are approved by the Quality Improvement

Committee. On an annual basis, Preventive Health Guidelines are distributed to Providers at [MolinaHealthcare.com](https://www.molinahealthcare.com) and the Provider Manual. Notification of the availability of the Preventive Health Guidelines is published in the Molina Provider Newsletter.

## Cultural and Linguistic Services

Molina works to ensure all Members receive culturally competent care across the service continuum to reduce health disparities and improve health outcomes. For additional information about Molina's programs and services, please see the Cultural Competency and Linguistic Services section of this Provider Manual.

## Measurement of Clinical and Service Quality

Molina monitors and evaluates the quality of care and services provided to Members through the following mechanisms:

- Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®).
- Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®).
- Health Outcomes Survey (HOS).
- Provider Satisfaction Survey.
- Effectiveness of Quality Improvement Initiatives.

Molina evaluates continuous performance according to, or in comparison with objectives, measurable performance standards, and benchmarks at the national, regional, and/or at the local/health plan level.

Contracted Providers and facilities must allow Molina to use its performance data collected in accordance with the Provider's or facility's contract. The use of performance data may include, but is not limited to:

1. Development of Quality Improvement activities.
2. Public reporting to consumers.
3. Preferred status designation in the network.
4. Reduced Member cost-sharing.

Molina's most recent results can be obtained from the Molina Quality department or by visiting our website at [MolinaHealthcare.com](https://www.molinahealthcare.com).

## Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®)

Molina utilizes the NCQA HEDIS® as a measurement tool to provide a fair and accurate assessment of specific aspects of Managed Care Organization performance. HEDIS® is an annual activity conducted in the spring. The data comes from on-site medical record review and available administrative data. All reported measures must follow rigorous specifications and are externally

audited to assure continuity and comparability of results. The HEDIS® measurement set currently includes a variety of health care aspects, including immunizations, women's health screening, diabetes care, well checkups, medication use, and cardiovascular disease.

HEDIS® results are used in a variety of ways. The results are the measurement standard for many of Molina's clinical quality activities and health improvement programs. The standards are based on established clinical guidelines and protocols, providing a firm foundation to measure the success of these programs.

Selected HEDIS® results are provided to regulatory and accreditation agencies as part of our contracts with these agencies. The data are also used to compare to established health plan performance benchmarks.

### **Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS®)**

CAHPS® is the tool used by Molina to summarize Member satisfaction with their Providers, and the health care and service they receive. CAHPS® examines specific measures, including Getting Needed Care, Getting Care Quickly, How Well Doctors Communicate, Coordination of Care, Customer Service, Rating of Health Care, and Getting Needed Prescription Drugs. The CAHPS® survey is administered annually in the spring to randomly selected Members by an NCQA-certified vendor.

CAHPS® results are used in much the same way as HEDIS® results, only the focus is on the service aspect of care rather than clinical activities. They form the basis for several of Molina's quality improvement activities and are used by external agencies to help ascertain the quality of services being delivered.

### **Medicare Health Outcomes Survey (HOS)**

The HOS measures Medicare Members' physical and mental health status over a two-year period and categorizes the two-year change scores as better, same, or worse than expected. The goal of the HOS is to gather valid, reliable, clinically meaningful data that can be used to target quality improvement activities and resources, monitor health plan performance, and reward top-performing health plans. Additionally, the HOS is used to inform Beneficiaries of their health care choices, advance the science of functional health outcomes measurement, and for quality improvement interventions and strategies.

## **Provider Satisfaction Survey**

Recognizing that HEDIS® and CAHPS®/Qualified Health Plan Enrollee Experience Survey both focus on Member experience with health care Providers and health plans, Molina conducts a Provider Satisfaction Survey annually. The results from this survey are very important to Molina, as this is one of the primary methods used to identify improvement areas pertaining to the Molina Provider Network.

The survey results have helped establish improvement activities relating to Molina's specialty network, inter-Provider communications, and pharmacy authorizations. This survey is fielded to a random sample of Providers each year. If your office is selected to participate, please take a few minutes to complete and return the survey.

## **Effectiveness of Quality Improvement Initiatives**

Molina monitors the effectiveness of clinical and service activities through metrics selected to demonstrate clinical outcomes and service levels. The plan's performance is compared to that of available national benchmarks indicating "best practices." The evaluation includes an assessment of clinical and service improvements on an ongoing basis. Results of these measurements guide activities for the successive periods.

In addition to the methods described above, Molina also compiles complaint and appeals data, as well as data on requests for out-of-network services to determine opportunities for service improvements.

## **Medicare Star Ratings—The Affordable Care Act**

Star Ratings are a system of measurements CMS uses to determine how well physicians and health plans are providing care to Medicare Members. This system is based on nationally recognized quality goals, such as "The Triple Aim" and the Institute of Medicine's "Six Aims," which focus on improving the health and care of your patients, safe and effective care, as well as making care affordable. These aims are realized through specific measures.

Preventive Health:

- Annual Wellness/Physical Exams
- Mammograms
- Osteoporosis Testing and Management
- Influenza and Pneumonia Immunizations
- Colonoscopies

Chronic Care Management:

- Diabetes Management Screenings

- Cardiovascular and Hypertension Management Screenings
- Medication Adherence for Chronic Conditions

Member Satisfaction Survey Questions:

- “...rate your satisfaction with your personal doctor.”
- “...rate your satisfaction with getting needed appointments.”

### **What Can Providers Do?**

- Ensure patients are up to date with their annual physical exam and preventive health screenings, including related lab orders and referrals to specialists, such as ophthalmology.
- Review the HEDIS® preventive care listing of measures for each patient to determine if anything applicable to your patient’s age and/or condition has been missed.
- Check that staff is properly coding all services provided.
- Be sure patients understand what **they** need to do.

Molina has additional resources to assist Providers and their patients. For access to tools that can assist, please visit the Availity Essentials portal. Providers will find a variety of resources, including HEDIS® CPT/CMS-approved diagnostic and procedural code sheets. To obtain a current list of HEDIS® and CAHPS®/Qualified Health Plan Enrollee Experience survey Star Ratings measures, contact the Molina Quality department.

HEDIS® and CAHPS® are registered trademarks of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

### **Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS)**

Under the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA), CMS implemented the Quality Payment Program Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS). This is a quality payment program that eligible Providers under original Medicare will participate in and does not impact how Medicare Advantage and MMP plans are required to pay. Due to this being a quality program, Providers will not receive a bonus or a withhold for MIPS, unless it is specifically in the agreement you have with Molina. Please contact your Provider Network Manager for other quality programs Molina offers.

## 11. RISK ADJUSTMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

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### What is Risk Adjustment?

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) defines Risk Adjustment as a process that helps to accurately measure the health status of a plan's Membership based on medical conditions and demographic information.

This process helps ensure health plans receive accurate payment for services provided to Molina Members and prepares for resources that may be needed in the future to treat Members who have multiple clinical conditions.

### Why is Risk Adjustment Important?

Molina relies on our Provider Network to take care of our Members based on their health care needs. Risk Adjustment looks at a number of clinical data elements of a Member's health profile to determine any documentation gaps from past visits and identify opportunities for gap closure for future visits. In addition, Risk Adjustment allows us to:

- Focus on quality and efficiency.
- Recognize and address current and potential health conditions early.
- Identify Members for Care Management referral.
- Ensure adequate resources for the acuity levels of Molina Members.
- Have the resources to deliver the highest quality of care to Molina Members

### Your Role as a Provider

As a Provider, your complete and accurate documentation in a Member's medical record and submitted claims are critical to a Member's quality of care. We encourage Providers to code all diagnoses to the highest specificity, as this will ensure Molina receives adequate resources to provide quality programs to you and our Members.

To constitute a complete and accurate medical record, all Provider documentation must:

- Address clinical data elements (e.g., diabetic patient needs an eye exam or multiple comorbid conditions) provided by Molina and reviewed with the Member.
- Be compliant with CMS correct coding initiative.
- Use the correct ICD-10 code by coding the condition to the highest level of specificity.
- Only use diagnosis codes confirmed during a Provider visit with a Member. The visit may be face-to-face or telehealth, depending on state or CMS requirements.

- Contain a treatment plan and progress notes.
- Contain the Member's name and date of service.
- Have the Provider's signature and credentials.

## Interoperability

Provider agrees to deliver relevant clinical documents—Clinical Document Architecture (CDA) or Continuity of Care Document (CCD) format—at encounter close for Molina members by using one of the automated methods available and supported by the Provider's Electronic Medical Records (EMR), including but not limited to Direct Protocol, Secure File Transfer Protocol (sFTP), query, or web service interfaces such as Simple Object Access Protocol (External Data Representation) or Representational State Transfer (Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resource). CDA or CCD document should include signed clinical notes or conform with the United States Core Data for Interoperability (USCDI) common data set and Health Level 7 (HL7) Consolidated Clinical Data Architecture (CCDA) standard.

Provider will also enable HL7 v2 Admission/Discharge/Transfer (ADT) feed for all patient events for Molina members to the interoperability vendor designated by Molina.

Provider will participate in Molina's program to communicate clinical information using the Direct Protocol. Direct Protocol is the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)-compliant mechanism for exchanging health care information that is approved by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC).

- If the Provider does not have Direct Address, Provider will work with its EMR vendor to set up a Direct Account, which also supports the Centers for Medicare & Medicare Services (CMS) Requirement of having Provider's Digital Contact Information added in the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES).
- If Provider's EMR does not support the Direct Protocol, Provider will work with Molina's established interoperability partner to get an account established.

## RADV Audits

As part of the regulatory process, state and/or federal agencies may conduct Risk Adjustment Data Validation (RADV) audits to ensure that the diagnosis data submitted by Molina is appropriate and accurate. All claims/encounters submitted to Molina are subject to state and/or federal and internal health plan auditing. If Molina is selected for a RADV audit, Providers will be required to submit medical records in a timely manner to validate the previously submitted data.

## Contact Information

For questions about Molina's Risk Adjustment programs, please contact the Provider Network Management team.



## 12. COMPLIANCE

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### Fraud, Waste, and Abuse

#### Introduction

Molina is dedicated to the detection, prevention, investigation, and reporting of potential health care fraud, waste, and abuse. As such, Molina's Compliance department maintains a comprehensive plan, which addresses how Molina will uphold and follow state and federal statutes and regulations pertaining to fraud, waste, and abuse. Molina also addresses fraud, waste, and abuse prevention, detection, and correction, along with the education of appropriate employees, vendors, Providers, and associates doing business with Molina.

Molina's Special Investigation Unit (SIU) supports the Compliance department in its efforts to prevent, detect, and correct fraud, waste, and abuse by conducting investigations aimed at identifying suspect activity and reporting these findings to the appropriate regulatory and/or law-enforcement agency.

#### Mission Statement

Our mission is to pay claims correctly the first time, and that mission begins with the understanding that we need to proactively detect fraud, waste, and abuse, correct it, and prevent it from recurring. Since not all fraud, waste, or abuse can be prevented, Molina employs processes that retrospectively address fraud, waste, or abuse that may have already occurred. Molina strives to detect, prevent, investigate, and report suspected health care fraud, waste, and abuse in order to reduce health care cost and to promote quality health care.

#### Regulatory Requirements

##### Federal False Claims Act

The False Claims Act is a federal statute that covers fraud involving any federally funded contract or program. The act establishes liability for any person who knowingly presents or causes to be presented a false or fraudulent claim to the U.S. government for payment.

The term "knowing" is defined to mean that a person with respect to information:

- Has actual knowledge of falsity of information in the claim.
- Acts in deliberate ignorance of the truth or falsity of the information in a claim.
- Acts in reckless disregard of the truth or falsity of the information in a claim.

The act does not require proof of a specific intent to defraud the U.S. government. Instead, health care Providers can be prosecuted for a wide variety of conduct that leads to the submission of fraudulent claims to the government, such as knowingly making false statements, falsifying records, double-billing for items or services, submitting bills for services never performed or items never furnished, or otherwise causing a false claim to be submitted.

## **Deficit Reduction Act**

The Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) aims to cut fraud, waste, and abuse from the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

As a contractor doing business with Molina, Providers and their staff have the same obligation to report any actual or suspected violation of funds either by fraud, waste, or abuse. Entities must have written policies that inform employees, contractors, and agents of the following:

- The Federal False Claims Act and state laws pertaining to submitting false claims.
- How Providers will detect and prevent fraud, waste, and abuse.
- Employee protection rights as whistleblowers.

These provisions encourage employees (current or former) and others to report instances of fraud, waste, or abuse to the government. The government may then proceed to file a lawsuit against the organization/individual accused of violating the False Claims Act. The whistleblower may also file a lawsuit independently. Cases found in favor of the government will result in the whistleblower receiving a portion of the amount awarded to the government.

Whistleblower protections state that employees who have been discharged, demoted, suspended, threatened, harassed, or otherwise discriminated against due to their role in disclosing or reporting a false claim are entitled to all relief necessary to make the employee whole including:

- Employment reinstatement at the same level of seniority.
- Two times the amount of back pay, plus interest.
- Compensation for special damages incurred by the employee as a result of the employer's inappropriate actions.

Affected entities who fail to comply with the Law will be at risk of forfeiting all payments until compliance is met. Molina will take steps to monitor Molina contracted Providers to ensure compliance with the Law.

## **Anti-Kickback Statute (42 U.S.C. § 1320a-7b(b))**

Anti-Kickback Statute (AKS) is a criminal law that prohibits the knowing and willful payment of remuneration to induce or reward patient referrals or the generation of business involving any item or service payable by the federal health care programs (e.g., drugs, supplies, or health care services for Medicare or Medicaid patients). In some industries, it is acceptable to reward those who refer business to you. However, in the federal health care programs, paying for referrals is a crime. The statute covers the payers of kickbacks—those who offer or pay remuneration—as well as the recipients of kickbacks—those who solicit or receive remuneration.

Molina conducts all business in compliance with federal and state Anti-Kickback Statutes (AKS) and regulations, and federal and state marketing regulations. Providers are prohibited from engaging in any activities covered under this statute.

### **What is AKS?**

AKS statutes and regulations prohibit paying or receiving anything of value to induce or reward patient referrals or the generation of business involving any item or service payable by federal and state health care programs. The phrase “anything of value” can mean cash, discounts, gifts, excessive compensation, contracts not at fair market value, etc. Examples of prohibited AKS actions include a health care Provider who is compensated based on patient volume, or a Provider who offers remuneration to patients to influence them to use their services.

Under Molina’s policies, Providers may not offer, solicit an offer, provide, or receive items of value of any kind that are intended to induce referrals of federal health care program business. Providers must not directly or indirectly make or offer items of value to any third party, for the purpose of obtaining, retaining, or directing our business. This includes giving, favors, preferential hiring, or anything of value to any government official.

### **Marketing Guidelines and Requirements**

Providers must conduct all Marketing activities in accordance with the relevant contractual requirements and marketing statutes and regulations, both state and federal.

Under Molina’s policies, Marketing means any communication to a Beneficiary who is not enrolled with Molina, that can reasonably be interpreted as intended to influence the Beneficiary to enroll with Molina’s Medicaid, Marketplace, or Medicare products. This also includes communications that can be interpreted

to influence a Beneficiary to not enroll in or to disenroll from another health plan's products.

Restricted Marketing activities vary from state to state but generally relate to the types and forms of communication that health plans, Providers, and others can have with Members and prospective Members. Examples of such communications include those related to enrolling Members, Member outreach, and other types of communications.

## **Stark Statute**

The Physicians Self-Referral Law (Stark Law) prohibits physicians from referring patients to receive “designated health services” payable by Medicare or Medicaid from entities with which the physician or an immediate family member has a financial relationship, unless an exception applies. Financial relationships include both ownership/investment interests and compensation arrangements. The Stark Law prohibits the submission or causing the submission of claims in violation of the law's restrictions on referrals. “Designated health services” are identified in the Physician Self-Referral Law [42 U.S.C. § 1395nn].

## **Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002**

Requires certification of financial statements by both the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer. The Act states that a corporation must assess the effectiveness of its internal controls and report this assessment annually to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

## **Definitions**

**Fraud**—An intentional deception or misrepresentation made by a person with the knowledge that the deception could result in some unauthorized benefit to themselves or some other person. It includes any act that constitutes fraud under applicable federal or state law. (42 CFR § 455.2)

**Waste**—Health care spending that can be eliminated without reducing the quality of care. Quality waste includes overuse, underuse, and ineffective use. Inefficiency waste includes redundancy, delays, and unnecessary process complexity. An example would be the attempt to obtain reimbursement for items or services where there was no intent to deceive or misrepresent; however, the outcome resulted in poor or inefficient billing methods (e.g., coding) causing unnecessary costs to state and federal health care programs.

**Abuse**—Provider practices that are inconsistent with sound fiscal, business, or medical practices, and result in unnecessary costs to state and federal health care programs, or in reimbursement for services that are not Medically Necessary or that fail to meet professionally recognized standards for health

care. It also includes recipient practices that result in unnecessary cost to state and federal health care programs. (42 CFR § 455.2)

## **Examples of Fraud, Waste, and Abuse by a Provider**

The types of questionable Provider schemes investigated by Molina include, but are not limited to:

- A Provider knowingly and willfully referring a Member to health care facilities in which or with which the Provider has a financial relationship (Stark Law).
- Altering claims and/or medical record documentation in order to get a higher level of reimbursement.
- Balance billing a Molina Member for Covered Services. This includes asking the Member to pay the difference between the discounted and negotiated fees, and the Provider's usual and customary fees.
- Billing for and providing for services to Members that are not Medically Necessary.
- Billing for services, procedures, and/or supplies that have not been rendered.
- Billing under an invalid Place of Service in order to receive or maximize reimbursement.
- Completing certificates of Medical Necessity for Members not personally and professionally known by the Provider.
- Concealing a Member's misuse of a Molina identification card.
- Failing to report a Member's forgery or alteration of a prescription or other medical document.
- False coding in order to receive or maximize reimbursement.
- Inappropriate billing of modifiers in order to receive or maximize reimbursement.
- Inappropriate billing of a procedure that does not match the diagnosis in order to receive or maximize reimbursement.
- Knowingly and willfully soliciting or receiving payment of kickbacks or bribes in exchange for referring patients.
- Not following incident to billing guidelines in order to receive or maximize reimbursement.
- Overutilization.
- Participating in schemes that involve collusion between a Provider and a Member that result in higher costs or charges.
- Questionable prescribing practices.
- Unbundling services in order to get more reimbursement, which involves separating a procedure into parts and charging for each part rather than using a single global code.
- Underutilization, which means failing to provide services that are Medically Necessary.

- Upcoding, which is when a Provider does not bill the correct code for the service rendered, and instead uses a code for a like services that costs more.
- Using the adjustment payment process to generate fraudulent payments.

## **Examples of Fraud, Waste, and Abuse by a Member**

The types of questionable Member schemes investigated by Molina include, but are not limited to:

- Benefit sharing with persons not entitled to the Member's benefits.
- Conspiracy to defraud state and federal health care programs.
- Doctor shopping, which occurs when a Member consults a number of Providers for the purpose of inappropriately obtaining services.
- Falsifying documentation in order to get services approved.
- Forgery related to health care.
- Prescription diversion, which occurs when a Member obtains a prescription from a Provider for a condition that they do not suffer from, and the Member sells the medication to someone else.

## **Review of Provider Claims and Claims System**

Molina Claims Examiners are trained to recognize unusual billing practices, which is key in trying to identify fraud, waste, and abuse. If the Claims Examiner suspects fraudulent, abusive, or wasteful billing practices, the billing practice is documented and reported to the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) through our Compliance AlertLine/reporting repository.

The claims payment system utilizes system edits and flags to validate those elements of claims are billed in accordance with standardized billing practices, ensure that claims are processed accurately, and ensure that payments reflect the service performed as authorized.

Molina performs audits to ensure the accuracy of data input into the claims system. The Claims department conducts regular audits to identify system issues or errors. If errors are identified, they are corrected, and a thorough review of system edits is conducted to detect and locate the source of the errors.

## **Prepayment Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Detection Activities**

Through implementation of claims edits, Molina's claims payment system is designed to audit claims concurrently, in order to detect and prevent paying claims that are inappropriate.

Molina has a pre-payment claims auditing process that identifies frequent correct-coding billing errors, ensuring that claims are coded appropriately

according to state and federal coding guidelines. Code edit relationships and edits are based on guidelines from specific state Medicaid Guidelines, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), federal CMS guidelines, AMA, and published specialty specific-coding rules. Code Edit Rules are based on information received from the National Physician Fee Schedule (NPFS) Relative File, the Medically Unlikely Edit (MUE) table, the National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) files, Local Coverage Determination/National Coverage Determination (LCD/NCD), and state-specific policy manuals and guidelines as specified by a defined set of indicators in the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Data Base (MPFSDB).

Additionally, Molina may, at the request of a state program or at its own discretion, subject a Provider to prepayment reviews, whereupon the Provider is required to submit supporting source documents that justify an amount charged. Where no supporting documents are provided, or insufficient information is provided to substantiate a charge, the claim will be denied until such time that the Provider can provide sufficient accurate support.

### **Post-Payment Recovery Activities**

The terms expressed in this section of this Provider Manual are incorporated into the Provider Agreement and are intended to supplement, rather than diminish, any and all other rights and remedies that may be available to Molina under the Provider Agreement or at law or equity.

In the event of any inconsistency between the terms expressed here and any terms expressed in the Provider Agreement, the parties agree that Molina shall, at its sole discretion, exercise the terms that are expressed in the Provider Agreement, the terms that are expressed here, its rights under law and equity, or some combination thereof.

Provider will provide Molina, and governmental agencies and their representatives or agents, access to examine, audit, and copy any and all records deemed by Molina, in Molina's sole discretion, necessary to determine compliance with the terms of the Provider Agreement, including for the purpose of investigating potential fraud, waste, and abuse. Documents and records must be readily accessible at the location where Provider provides services to any Molina Members. Auditable documents and records include, but are not limited to, medical charts, patient charts, billing records, and coordination of benefits information. Production of auditable documents and records must be provided in a timely manner, as requested by Molina and without charge to Molina. In the event Molina identifies fraud, waste, or abuse, Provider agrees to repay funds or Molina may seek recoupment.

If a Molina auditor is denied access to Provider's records, all of the claims for which Provider received payment from Molina are immediately due and owing. If Provider fails to provide all requested documentation for any claim, the entire amount of the paid claim is immediately due and owing. Molina may offset such amounts against any amounts owed by Molina to Provider. Provider must comply with all requests for documentation and records timely (as reasonably requested by Molina) and without charge to Molina. Claims for which Provider fails to furnish supporting documentation during the audit process are not reimbursable and are subject to chargeback.

Provider acknowledges that HIPAA specifically permits a covered entity, such as Provider, to disclose Protected Health Information (PHI) for its own payment purposes (see 45 CFR 164.502 and 45 CFR 154.501). Provider further acknowledges that in order to receive payment from Molina, Provider is required to allow Molina to conduct audits of its pertinent records to verify the services performed and the payment claimed, and that such audits are permitted as a payment activity of Provider under HIPAA and other applicable privacy Laws.

## **Claim Auditing**

Molina shall use established industry claims adjudication and/or clinical practices, state and federal guidelines, and/or Molina's policies and data to determine the appropriateness of the billing, coding, and payment.

Provider acknowledges Molina's right to conduct pre- and post-payment billing audits. Provider shall cooperate with Molina's Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and audits of claims and payments by providing access at reasonable times to requested claims information, all supporting medical records, Provider's charging policies, and other related data as deemed relevant to support the transactions billed. Providers are required to submit, or provide access to, medical records upon Molina's request. Failure to do so in a timely manner may result in an audit failure and/or denial, resulting in an overpayment.

In reviewing medical records for a procedure, Molina may select a statistically valid random sample or smaller subset of the statistically valid random sample. This gives an estimate of the proportion of claims that Molina paid in error. The estimated proportion, or error rate, may be projected across all claims to determine the amount of overpayment.

Provider audits may be telephonic, an on-site visit, internal claims review, client-directed/regulatory investigation, and/or compliance reviews and may be vendor assisted. Molina asks that you provide Molina, or Molina's designee, during normal business hours, access to examine, audit, scan, and copy any and all records necessary to determine compliance and accuracy of billing.



If Molina's SIU suspects fraudulent or abusive activity, Molina may conduct an on-site audit without notice. Should the Provider refuse to allow access to its facilities, Molina reserves the right to recover the full amount paid or due to Provider.

## **Provider Education**

When Molina identifies through an audit or other means a situation with a Provider (e.g., coding, billing) that is either inappropriate or deficient, Molina may determine that a Provider education visit is appropriate.

Molina will notify the Provider of the deficiency and will take steps to educate the Provider, which may include the Provider submitting a corrective action plan (CAP) to Molina addressing the issues identified and how it will cure these issues moving forward.

## **Reporting Fraud, Waste and Abuse**

If you suspect cases of fraud, waste, or abuse, you must report it by contacting the Molina AlertLine. AlertLine is an external telephone and web-based reporting system hosted by NAVEX Global, a leading Provider of compliance and ethics hotline services. AlertLine and web-based reporting is available 24/7 year-round. When you make a report, you can choose to remain confidential or anonymous. If you choose to call AlertLine, a trained professional at NAVEX Global will note your concerns and provide them to the Molina Compliance department for follow-up. If you elect to use the web-based reporting process, you will be asked a series of questions before submitting your report. Reports to AlertLine can be made from anywhere within the United States with telephone or internet access.

Molina AlertLine can be reached toll free at **(866) 606-3889** or you may use the service's website to make a report at any time at [MolinaHealthcare.alertline.com](http://MolinaHealthcare.alertline.com).

You may also report cases of fraud, waste, or abuse to Molina's Compliance department. You have the right to have your concerns reported anonymously without fear of retaliation.

Molina Healthcare of Illinois, Inc.  
Attn: Compliance  
2001 Butterfield Rd., Suite 750  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

**Phone:** (888) 858-2156

**Fax:** (630) 571-1220

Include the following information when reporting:

- Nature of complaint.
- The names of individuals and/or entities involved in suspected fraud and/or abuse, including address, phone number, Molina Member ID number, and any other identifying information.

Suspected fraud and abuse may also be reported directly to CMS:

**Phone:** (800) 633-4227 – (800) MEDICARE

or

Office of Inspector General  
Attn: OIG Hotline Operations  
PO Box 23489  
Washington, DC 20026

**Phone:** (800) 447-8477

**TTY/TDD:** (800) 377-4950

**Fax (10 pages max):** (800) 223-8164

### **Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General**

Online: [oig.hhs.gov/fraud/report-fraud/index.asp](https://oig.hhs.gov/fraud/report-fraud/index.asp)

Suspected fraud and abuse may also be reported to the state at:

Illinois State Police  
Medicaid Fraud Control Unit  
8151 W. 183rd Street, Suite F  
Tinley Park, Illinois 60477

**Toll Free Phone:** (844) 453-7283/ (844) ILFRAUD

### **Illinois Attorney General**

Online at: [hfs.illinois.gov/oig/reportfraud.html](https://hfs.illinois.gov/oig/reportfraud.html)

## **HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act)**

### **Molina's Commitment to Patient Privacy**

Protecting the privacy of Members' personal health information is a core responsibility that Molina takes very seriously. Molina is committed to complying with all federal and state laws regarding the privacy and security of Members' Protected Health Information (PHI).

### **Provider Responsibilities**

Molina expects that its contracted Provider will respect the privacy of Molina Members (including Molina Members who are not patients of the Provider) and comply with all applicable laws and regulations regarding the privacy of patient

and Member PHI. Molina provides its Members with a privacy notice upon their enrollment in our health plan. The privacy notice explains how Molina uses and discloses their PHI and includes a summary of how Molina safeguards their PHI.

Telehealth/Telemedicine Providers: Telehealth transmissions are subject to HIPAA-related requirements outlined under state and federal law, including:

- 42 C.F.R. Part 2 Regulations
- Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act, (HITECH Act)

## **Applicable Laws**

Providers must understand all state and federal health care privacy laws applicable to their practice and organization. Currently, there is no comprehensive regulatory framework that protects all health information in the United States; instead, there is a patchwork of laws that Providers must comply with. In general, most health care Providers are subject to various laws and regulations pertaining to privacy of health information, including, without limitation:

### **1. Federal Laws and Regulations**

- HIPAA
- The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH)
- 42 C.F.R. Part 2
- Medicare and Medicaid Laws
- The Affordable Care Act

### **2. State Medical Privacy Laws and Regulations**

Providers should be aware that HIPAA provides a floor for patient privacy, but that state laws should be followed in certain situations, especially if the state law is more stringent than HIPAA. Providers should consult with their own legal counsel to address their specific situations.

## **Uses and Disclosure of PHI**

Member and patient PHI should only be used or disclosed as permitted or required by applicable law. Under HIPAA, a Provider may use and disclose PHI for their own health care Treatment, Payment, and Operations (TPO) activities without the consent or authorization of the patient who is the subject of the PHI. Uses and disclosures for TPO apply not only to the Provider's own TPO

activities, but also for the TPO of another covered entity<sup>1</sup>. Disclosure of PHI by one covered entity to another covered entity or health care Provider for the recipient's TPO is specifically permitted under HIPAA in the following situations:

1. A covered entity may disclose PHI to another covered entity or a health care Provider for the payment activities of the recipient. Please note that "payment" is a defined term under the HIPAA Privacy Rule that includes, without limitation, utilization review activities, such as preauthorization of services, concurrent review, and retrospective review of "services<sup>2</sup>."
2. A covered entity may disclose PHI to another covered entity for the health care operations activities of the covered entity that receives the PHI, if each covered entity either has or had a relationship with the individual who is the subject of the PHI being requested, the PHI pertains to such relationship, and the disclosure is for the following health care operations activities:
  - Quality improvement.
  - Disease management.
  - Care management and care coordination.
  - Training programs.
  - Accreditation, licensing, and credentialing.

Importantly, this allows Providers to share PHI with Molina for our health care operations activities, such as HEDIS® and Quality Improvement.

## **Confidentiality of Substance-Use Disorder Patient Records**

Federal regulations regarding confidentiality of Substance-Use Disorder (SUD) patients' records apply to any entity or individual providing federally assisted alcohol or drug abuse prevention treatment. Records of the identity, diagnosis, prognosis, or treatment of any patient that are maintained in connection with SUD treatment or programs are confidential and may be disclosed only as permitted by 42 CFR Part 2. Although HIPAA protects SUD information, the Federal Confidentiality of Substance Use Disorder Patients' Records regulations

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<sup>1</sup> See Sections 164.506(c) (2) & (3) of the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

<sup>2</sup> See the definition of Payment, Section 164.501 of the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

are more restrictive than HIPAA, and they do not allow disclosure without the Member's written consent except as set forth in 42 CFR Part 2.

## **Inadvertent Disclosures of PHI**

Molina may, on occasion, inadvertently misdirect or disclose PHI pertaining to Molina Member(s) who are not the patients of the Provider. In such cases, the Provider shall return or securely destroy the PHI of the affected Molina Members in order to protect their privacy. The Provider agrees to not further use or disclose such PHI, and further agrees to provide an attestation of return, destruction, and nondisclosure of any such misdirected PHI upon the reasonable request of Molina.

## **Written Authorizations**

Uses and disclosures of PHI that are not permitted or required under applicable law require the valid written authorization of the patient. Authorizations should meet the requirements of HIPAA and applicable state law.

## **Patient Rights**

Patients are afforded various rights under HIPAA. Molina Providers must allow patients to exercise any of the below-listed rights that apply to the Provider's practice:

### **1. Notice of Privacy Practices**

Providers that are covered under HIPAA and that have a direct treatment relationship with the patient should provide patients with a notice of privacy practices that explains the patient's privacy rights and the process the patient should follow to exercise those rights. The Provider should obtain a written acknowledgment that the patient received the notice of privacy practices.

### **2. Requests for Restrictions on Uses and Disclosures of PHI**

Patients may request that a health care Provider restrict its uses and disclosures of PHI. The Provider is not required to agree to any such request for restrictions.

### **3. Requests for Confidential Communications**

Patients may request that a health care Provider communicate PHI by alternative means or at alternative locations. Providers must accommodate reasonable requests by the patient.

### **4. Requests for Patient Access to PHI**

Patients have a right to access their own PHI within a Provider's designated record set. Personal representatives of patients have the right to access the PHI of the subject patient. The designated record set of a

Provider includes the patient's medical record, as well as billing and other records used to make decisions about the Member's care or payment for care.

**5. Request to Amend PHI**

Patients have a right to request that the Provider amend information in their designated record set.

**6. Request Accounting of PHI Disclosures**

Patients may request an accounting of disclosures of PHI made by the Provider during the preceding six-year period. The list of disclosures does not need to include disclosures made for treatment, payment, or health care operations or made prior to April 14, 2003.

## **HIPAA Security**

Providers must implement and maintain reasonable and appropriate safeguards to protect the confidentiality, availability, and integrity of Molina Member and patient PHI. As more Providers implement electronic health records, Providers must ensure that they have implemented and maintain appropriate cybersecurity measures. Providers should recognize that identity theft—both financial and medical—is a rapidly growing problem, and that their patients trust their health care Providers to keep their most sensitive information private and confidential.

Medical identity theft is an emerging threat in the health care industry. Medical identity theft occurs when someone uses a person's name and sometimes other parts of their identity—such as health insurance information—without the person's knowledge or consent to obtain health care services or goods. Medical identity theft frequently results in erroneous entries being put into existing medical records. Providers should be aware of this growing problem and report any suspected fraud to Molina.

## **HIPAA Transactions and Code Sets**

Molina strongly supports the use of electronic transactions to streamline health care administrative activities. Molina Providers are encouraged to submit claims and other transactions to Molina using electronic formats. Certain electronic transactions in health care are subject to HIPAA's Transactions and Code Sets Rule including, but not limited to:

- Claims and encounters.
- Member eligibility status inquiries and responses.
- Claims status inquiries and responses.
- Authorization requests and responses.
- Remittance advices.

Molina is committed to complying with all HIPAA Transaction and Code Sets standard requirements. Providers should refer to Molina’s website at [MolinaHealthcare.com](http://MolinaHealthcare.com) for additional information regarding HIPAA standard transactions.

1. Click on the area titled “I’m a Health Care Professional.”
2. Click the tab titled “HIPAA.”
3. Click on the tab titled “HIPAA Transactions” or “HIPAA Code Sets.”

## **Code Sets**

HIPAA regulations require that only approved code sets may be used in standard electronic transactions. Providers must use the ICD-10 code sets.

## **National Provider Identifier (NPI)**

Providers must comply with the National Provider Identifier (NPI) Rule promulgated under HIPAA. The Provider must obtain an NPI from the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES) for itself or for any subparts of the Provider. The Provider must report its NPI and any subparts to Molina and to any other entity that requires it. Any changes in its NPI or subparts information must be reported to NPPES within 30 days and should also be reported to Molina within 30 days of the change. Providers must use their NPI to identify it on all electronic transactions required under HIPAA and on all claims and encounters submitted to Molina.

## **Additional Requirements for Delegated Providers**

Providers that are delegated for claims and Utilization Management activities are the “business associates” of Molina. Under HIPAA, Molina must obtain contractual assurances from all business associates that they will safeguard Member PHI. Delegated Providers must agree to various contractual provisions required under HIPAA’s Privacy and Security Rules.

## **Reimbursement for Copies of PHI**

Molina does not reimburse Providers for copies of PHI related to our Members. These requests may include, although are not limited to, the following purposes:

- Utilization management.
- Care coordination and/or complex medical care management services.
- Claims review.
- Resolution of an appeal and/grievance.
- Anti-fraud program review.
- Quality of care issues.
- Regulatory audits.
- Risk adjustment.

- Treatment, payment, and/or operation purposes.
- Collection of HEDIS® medical records.

## Business Continuity Plan (BCP)

The Provider will have a documented Business Continuity Plan (BCP) to ensure continuation and recovery of services after a disruption occurs. The BCP will be updated at least annually and approved by the applicable designated representative.

The Provider Business Continuity Plan will include:

- Names and contact information for staff responsible for invoking and managing response and recovery.
- Molina notification names and contact information.
- Disaster declaration process.
- Details of how the services will be recovered and restored.
- Details of how the systems and applications supporting the services will be recovered and restored, including recovery of data.

The Provider will notify Molina of a disruption to the services or activation of a BCP within two hours of occurrence, and will provide Molina with regular updates on the situation and actions taken to resolve the issue until normal services have been resumed.

The Provider will ensure that its third-parties needed to deliver the services have appropriate BCPs in place to prevent significant disruption to the services.

The Provider will test the BCP at least annually and document the test results. Upon request, the Provider will make available to Molina the results of the most recent test, including lessons learned and remediation plans.

The Provider will participate in Molina's annual tests upon notification and mutual agreement.

After disruption to services, once normal service has been resumed, the Provider will promptly complete a root cause analysis report and provide it to Molina.

## Definitions

- **Business Continuity Plan**—Documented procedures that guide organizations to respond, recover, resume, and restore to a pre-defined level of operations following a disruption.
- **Disaster Recovery Plan**—A document that defines the resources, actions, tasks, and data required to manage the technology recovery effort.



- **Disaster Declaration**—Criteria to declare a disaster and appoint the staff authorized to invoke recovery plans to recover and restore services.

## Cybersecurity Requirements

Note: The Cybersecurity Requirements section is only applicable to Providers that are delegated Providers and have been delegated by Molina to perform a health plan function.

1. Provider shall comply with the following requirements and permit Molina to audit such compliance as required by law or any enforcement agency.
2. Terms are defined as follows:
  - I. **Consumer**—An individual who is a state resident, whose Nonpublic Information is in Molina’s possession, custody, or control and which Provider maintains, processes, stores, or otherwise has access to such Nonpublic Information.
  - II. **Cybersecurity Event**—Any act or attempt, successful or to the extent known by Provider unsuccessful, to gain unauthorized access to, disrupt, or misuse an Information System or Nonpublic Information stored on such Information System. The ongoing existence and occurrence of attempted but Unsuccessful Security Incidents shall not constitute a Cybersecurity Event under this definition. **Unsuccessful Security Incidents** are activities such as pings and other broadcast attacks on Provider’s firewall, port scans, unsuccessful log-on attempts, denials of service, and any combination of the above, so long as no such incident results in unauthorized access, use, or disclosure of Molina Nonpublic Information or sustained interruption of service obligations to Molina.
  - III. **Information System or Information Systems**—A discrete set of electronic information resources organized for the collection, processing, maintenance, use, sharing, dissemination, or disposition of electronic Nonpublic Information, as well as any specialized system such as industrial or process controls systems, telephone switching and private branch exchange systems, and environmental control systems.
  - IV. **Nonpublic Information**—Information that is not publicly available information and is one of the following:
    - (a) Business-related information of Molina, the tampering with which or unauthorized disclosure, access, or use of which, would cause a material adverse impact to the business, operations, or security of Molina.
    - (b) Any information concerning a Consumer that, because of the name, number, personal mark, or other identifier contained in

the information, can be used to identify such Consumer, in combination with any one or more of the following data elements:

- (i) Social Security number.
  - (ii) Driver's license number, commercial driver's license number, or state identification card number.
  - (iii) Account number, or credit or debit card number.
  - (iv) Security code, access code, or password that would permit access to a Consumer's financial account.
  - (v) Biometric records.
- (c) Any information or data, except age or gender, in any form or medium created by or derived from a health care provider or a Consumer, that can be used to identify a particular Consumer, and that relates to any of the following:
- (i) The past, present, or future physical, mental, or behavioral health or condition of a Consumer or a member of the Consumer's family.
  - (ii) The provision of health care to a Consumer.
  - (iii) Payment for the provision of health care to a Consumer.

V. **State**—The State of Illinois.

3. Provider shall implement appropriate administrative, technical, and physical measures to protect and secure the Information Systems and Nonpublic Information, as defined herein, that are accessible to or held by the Provider. Implementation of the foregoing measures shall incorporate guidance issued by the Illinois Department of Insurance, as appropriate.
4. Provider agrees to comply with all applicable laws governing Cybersecurity Events. Molina will decide on notification to affected Consumers or government entities, except where Provider is solely responsible and required to notify such Consumers or government entities by law. Upon Molina's prior written request, Provider agrees to assume responsibility for informing all such Consumers in accordance with applicable law.
5. In the event of a Cybersecurity Event, Provider shall notify Molina's Chief Information Security Officer of such Cybersecurity Event by telephone **and** email (as provided below) as promptly as possible, but in no event later than 24 hours from a determination that a Cybersecurity Event has occurred. In addition to the foregoing, Provider shall notify Molina's Chief Information Security Officer (by telephone **and** email) within 24 hours following payment of a ransom that involves or may involve Molina Nonpublic Information.

Notification to Molina's Chief Information Security Officer shall be provided to:

Molina Chief Information Security Officer

**Phone:** 844-821-1942

**Email:** [CyberIncidentReporting@molinahealthcare.com](mailto:CyberIncidentReporting@molinahealthcare.com)

A follow-up notification shall be provided by mail to:

Molina Chief Information Security Officer

Molina Healthcare, Inc.

200 Oceangate Blvd., Suite 100

Long Beach, CA 90802

6. Upon Provider's notification to Molina of a determination of a Cybersecurity Event, Provider must promptly provide Molina any documentation required and requested by Molina to complete an investigation or, upon written request by Molina, Provider shall complete an investigation pursuant to the following requirements:
  - (a) Determine whether a Cybersecurity Event occurred.
  - (b) Assess the nature and scope of the Cybersecurity Event.
  - (c) Identify Nonpublic Information that may have been involved in the Cybersecurity Event.
  - (d) Perform or oversee reasonable measures to restore the security of the Information Systems compromised in the Cybersecurity Event to prevent further unauthorized acquisition, release, or use of the Nonpublic Information.
7. Provider shall maintain records concerning all Cybersecurity Events for a period of at least five years from the date of the Cybersecurity Event, or such longer period as required by applicable laws, and produce those records upon request of Molina.
8. Provider must provide to Molina the following information regarding a Cybersecurity Event in electronic form. Provider shall have a continuing obligation to update and supplement the initial and subsequent notifications to Molina concerning the Cybersecurity Event. The information provided to Molina in the initial and subsequent notices must include all of following information known to Provider at the time of the notification:
  - (a) The date of the Cybersecurity Event.
  - (b) A description of how the information was exposed, lost, stolen, or breached, including the specific roles and responsibilities of Provider, if any.
  - (c) How the Cybersecurity Event was discovered.
  - (d) Whether any lost, stolen, or breached information has been recovered and, if so, how this was done.

- (e) The identity of the source of the Cybersecurity Event.
  - (f) Whether Provider has filed a police report or has notified any regulatory, governmental, or law enforcement agencies and, if so, when such notification was provided.
  - (g) A description of the specific types of information acquired without authorization, which means particular data elements including, for example, types of medical information, types of financial information, or types of information allowing identification of the Consumer.
  - (h) The period during which the Information System was compromised by the Cybersecurity Event.
  - (i) The number of total Consumers in the state affected by the Cybersecurity Event.
  - (j) The results of any internal review identifying a lapse in either automated controls or internal procedures, or confirming that all automated controls or internal procedures were followed.
  - (k) A description of efforts being undertaken to remediate the situation that permitted the Cybersecurity Event to occur.
  - (l) A copy of Provider's privacy policy and, if requested by Molina, the steps that Provider will take to notify Consumers affected by the Cybersecurity Event.
  - (m) The name of a contact person who is both familiar with the Cybersecurity Event and authorized to act on behalf of Provider.
9. Provider agrees to fully cooperate with any security risk assessments performed by Molina and/or any designated representative or vendor of Molina. Provider agrees to promptly provide accurate and complete information with respect to such security risk assessments.

In the event that provisions of this section conflict with provisions of any other agreement between Molina and Provider, the stricter of the conflicting provisions will control.

## 13. CLAIMS AND COMPENSATION

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Payer ID	<b>20934</b>
Availity Essentials portal	<a href="http://provider.MolinaHealthcare.com">provider.MolinaHealthcare.com</a>
Clean Claim Timely Filing	365 calendar days after the discharge for inpatient services or the Date of Service for outpatient services

### Electronic Claims Submission

Molina strongly encourages participating Providers to submit claims electronically, including secondary claims. Electronic claims submission provides significant benefits to the Provider including:

- Helps reduce operations costs associated with paper claims (printing, postage, etc.).
- Increases accuracy of data and efficient information delivery.
- Reduces claim delays, since errors can be corrected and resubmitted electronically.
- Eliminates mailing time so claims reach Molina faster.

Molina offers the following electronic Claims submission options:

- Submit Claims directly to Molina via the [Availity Essentials portal](http://Availity Essentials portal)
- Submit Claims to Molina via your regular EDI clearinghouse using **Payer ID 20934**.

### Availity Essentials Portal

The Availity Essentials portal is a no-cost online platform that offers a number of claims processing features:

- Submit Professional (CMS-1500) and Institutional (CMS-1450 [UB04]) claims with attached files.
- Correct/void claims.
- Add attachments to previously submitted claims.
- Check claims status.
- View Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA) and Explanation of Payment (EOP).
- Create and manage claim templates.
- Create and submit a claim appeal with attached files.

### Clearinghouse

Molina uses Change Healthcare as its gateway clearinghouse. Change Healthcare has relationships with hundreds of other clearinghouses. Typically, Providers can continue to submit claims to their usual clearinghouse.

If you do not have a clearinghouse, Molina offers additional electronic claims submissions options as shown by logging on to the Availity Essentials portal.

Molina accepts EDI transactions through our gateway clearinghouse for claims via the 837P for Professional and 837I for institutional. It is important to track your electronic transmissions using your acknowledgement reports. The reports assure that claims are received for processing in a timely manner.

When your claims are filed via a Clearinghouse:

- You should receive a 999 acknowledgement from your clearinghouse.
- You should also receive 277CA response file with initial status of the claim from your clearinghouse.
- Refer to the Molina Companion Guide for information on the response format and messages.
- Contact your local clearinghouse representative if you experience any problems with your transmission.

## **EDI Claims Submission Issues**

Providers who are experiencing EDI submission issues should work with their clearinghouse to resolve this issue. If the Provider's clearinghouse is unable to resolve, the Provider should contact their Provider Network Manager for additional support.

## **Timely Claim Filing**

Provider shall promptly submit to Molina claims for Covered Services rendered to Members. All claims shall be submitted in a form acceptable to and approved by Molina, and shall include all medical records pertaining to the claim if requested by Molina or otherwise required by Molina's policies and procedures. Claims must be submitted by Provider to Molina within 365 calendar days after the discharge for inpatient services or the date of service for outpatient services.

If Molina is not the primary payer under Coordination of Benefits or third-party liability, Provider must submit claims to Molina within 365 calendar days after final determination by the primary payer. Except as otherwise provided by law or provided by government program requirements, any claims that are not submitted to Molina within these timelines shall not be eligible for payment, and Provider hereby waives any right to payment.

## **Claim Submission**

Participating Providers are required to submit claims to Molina with appropriate documentation. Providers must follow the appropriate state and CMS Provider

billing guidelines. Providers must utilize electronic billing through a clearinghouse or the Availity Essentials portal whenever possible and use current HIPAA-compliant ANSI X 12N format (e.g., 837I for Institutional claims, 837P for Professional claims, and 837D for Dental claims), and use electronic **Payer ID 20934**. For Members assigned to a delegated Medical Group/IPA that processes its own claims, please verify the claim submission instructions on the Member's Molina ID card.

Providers must bill Molina for services with the most current CMS-approved diagnostic and procedural coding available as of the date the service was provided—or for inpatient facility claims, the date of discharge.

### National Provider Identifier (NPI)

A valid NPI is required on all claim submissions. Providers must report any changes in their NPI or subparts to Molina as soon as possible, not to exceed 30 calendar days from the change.

### Required Elements

Electronic submitters should use the Implementation Guide and Molina Companion Guide for format and code set information when submitting or receiving files directly with Molina. In addition to the Implementation Guide and Companion Guide, electronic submitters should use the appropriate state-specific Companion Guides and Provider Manuals. These documents are subject to change as new information is available. Please check the Molina website at [under EDI > Companion Guides](#) for regularly updated information regarding Molina's Companion Guide requirements. Note: Choose the appropriate state (Illinois) from the drop-down list at the top of the page. In addition to the Molina Companion Guide, it is also necessary to use the state-health-plan-specific Companion Guides, which are also available on the Molina website for your convenience (remember to choose Illinois from the drop-down list).

Electronic claim submissions will adhere to specifications for submitting medical claims data in standardized Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) X12N 837 formats. Electronic claims are validated for Compliance SNIP levels 1 to 5.

The following information must be included on every claim, whether electronic or paper:

- Member name, date of birth, and Molina Member ID number.
- Member's gender.
- Member's address.
- Date(s) of service.

- Valid International Classification of Diseases diagnosis and procedure codes.
- Valid revenue, CPT, or HCPCS for services or items provided.
- Valid diagnosis pointers.
- HIPAA-compliant CPT, HCPCS, and modifier code sets.
- Total billed charges.
- Place and type of service code.
- Days or units as applicable (anesthesia claims require minutes).
- Provider tax identification number (TIN).
- 10-digit National Provider Identifier (NPI) or Atypical Provider Identifier (API).
- Rendering Provider information when different than billing.
- Billing/Pay-To Provider name and billing address.
- Place of service and type (for facilities).
- Disclosure of any other health benefit plans.
- National Drug Code (NDC), unit of measure, and quantity for medical injectables.
- E-signature.
- Service facility location information.
- Any other state-required data.

Provider and Member data will be verified for accuracy and active status. Providers should validate this data in advance of claims submission. This validation will apply to all Provider data submitted, and also applies to atypical and out-of-state Providers.

Inaccurate, incomplete, or untimely submissions and re-submissions may result in denial of the claim.

### **EDI (Clearinghouse) Submission**

Corrected claim information submitted via EDI are required to follow electronic claim standardized Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) X12N 837 formats. Electronic claims are validated for Compliance SNIP levels 1 to 5. The 837 claim format allows Providers to submit changes to claims that were not included on the original adjudication.

The 837 Implementation Guides refer to the National Uniform Billing Data Element Specifications Loop 2300 CLM05-3 for explanation and usage. In the 837 formats, the codes are called “claim frequency codes.” Using the appropriate code, Provider can indicate that the claim is an adjustment of a previously submitted finalized claim. Use the below frequency codes for claims that were previously adjudicated.



Claim Frequency Code	Description	Action
7	Use to replace an entire claim.	Molina will adjust the original claim. The corrections submitted represent a complete replacement of the previously processed claim.
8	Use to eliminate a previously submitted claim.	Molina will void the original claim from records based on request.

When submitting claims noted with claim frequency code 7 or 8, the original claim number must be submitted in Loop 2300 REFO2 – Payer Claim Control Number with qualifier F8 in REFO1. The original claim number can be obtained from the 835 Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA). Without the original claim number, adjustment requests will generate a compliance error and the claim will reject.

Claim corrections submitted without the appropriate frequency code will deny as a duplicate, and the original claim number will not be adjusted.

## Paper Claim Submissions

Participating Providers should submit claims electronically. If electronic claim submission is not possible, you may submit paper claims to:

Molina Healthcare of Illinois, Inc.  
 PO Box 540  
 Long Beach, CA 90810

When submitting paper claims:

- Paper claim submissions are not considered to be “accepted” until received at the appropriate Claims PO Box; claims received outside of the designated PO Box will be returned for appropriate submission.
- Paper claims **must** be submitted on original red-and-white CMS-1500 and CMS-1450 (UB-04) claim forms.
- Paper claims not submitted on the required forms will be rejected and returned. This includes black-and-white forms, copied forms, and any altering to include claims with handwriting.
- Claims must be typed with either 10- or 12-point Times New Roman font, using black ink.
- Link to paper claims submission guidance from CMS:  
[cms.gov/Medicare/Billing/ElectronicBillingEDITrans/1500](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Billing/ElectronicBillingEDITrans/1500)

## Corrected Claim Process

Providers may correct any necessary field of the CMS-1500 and CMS-1450 (UB-04) forms.

Molina **strongly** encourages Participating Providers to submit corrected claims electronically via EDI or the Availity Essentials portal. **All** corrected claims:

- Must be free of handwritten or stamped verbiage (paper claims).
- Must be submitted on a standard red-and-white CMS-1450 (UB-04) or CMS-1500 claim form (paper claims).
- Original claim number must be inserted in field 64 of the CMS-1450 (UB-04) or field 22 of the CMS-1500 of the paper claim, or the applicable 837 transaction loop for submitting corrected claims electronically.
- The appropriate frequency code/resubmission code must also be billed in field 4 of the CMS-1450 (UB-04) and 22 of the CMS-1500.

**Note:** The frequency/resubmission codes can be found in the NUCC (National Uniform Claim Committee) manual for CMS-1500 Claim forms or the UB Editor (Uniform Billing Editor) for CMS-1450 (UB-04) Claim forms.

Corrected Claims must be sent within 365 calendar days of the most recent adjudicated date of the Claim. Corrected claims submission options:

- Submit Corrected Claims directly to Molina via the [Availity Essentials portal](#).
- Submit corrected Claims to Molina via your regular EDI clearinghouse

## Coordination of Benefits (COB) and Third-Party Liability (TPL)

Coordination of Benefits (COB) - Molina shall coordinate payment for Covered Services in accordance with the terms of a Member's Benefit Plan, applicable state and federal laws, and applicable CMS guidance. If Molina is the secondary payer due to COB, Providers shall bill primary insurers for items and services they provide to a Member before they submit claims for the same items or services to Molina for reimbursement. Molina will adjudicate the claim based upon the primary Explanation of Benefits (EOB) submitted and pay for covered services up to the secondary liability based upon COB payment guidelines. If services and payment have been rendered prior to establishing Third-Party-Liability, an overpayment notification letter will be sent to the Provider requesting a refund, including third-party policy information required for billing.

## Medicaid Coverage for Molina Medicare Members

There are certain benefits that will **not** be covered by Molina Medicare Program but **may** be covered by **fee-for-service Medicaid**. In this case, the Provider should bill Medicaid with a copy of the Molina Medicare remittance advice, and the associated state agency will process the claim accordingly.

After exhausting all other primary coverage benefits, Providers may submit claims to Molina Medicare. A copy of the remittance advice from the primary payer must accompany the claim or the claim will be denied. If the primary insurance paid more than Molina's contracted allowable rate, the claim is considered paid in full, and zero dollars will be applied to claim.

## **Hospital-Acquired Conditions and Present on Admission Program**

The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA) mandated that Medicare establish a program that would modify reimbursement for fee-for-service beneficiaries when certain conditions occurred as a direct result of a hospital stay that could have been reasonably prevented by the use of evidenced-based guidelines. CMS titled the program "Hospital-Acquired Conditions and Present On Admission Indicator Reporting" (HAC and POA).

The following is a list of CMS Hospital-Acquired Conditions. CMS reduces payment for hospitalizations complicated by these categories of conditions that were not Present On Admission (POA):

1. Foreign object retained after surgery.
2. Air embolism.
3. Blood incompatibility.
4. Stage III and IV pressure ulcers.
5. Falls and trauma:
  - a) Fractures.
  - b) Dislocations.
  - c) Intracranial injuries.
  - d) Crushing injuries.
  - e) Burn.
  - f) Other injuries.
6. Manifestations of poor glycemic control:
  - a) Hypoglycemic coma.
  - b) Diabetic ketoacidosis.
  - c) Nonketotic hyperosmolar coma.
  - d) Secondary diabetes with ketoacidosis.
  - e) Secondary diabetes with hyperosmolarity.
7. Catheter-associated Urinary Tract Infection (UTI).
8. Vascular catheter-associated infection.
9. Surgical-site infection following coronary artery bypass graft—mediastinitis.
10. Surgical-site infection following certain orthopedic procedures:
  - a) Spine.
  - b) Neck.
  - c) Shoulder.
  - d) Elbow.

11. Surgical-site infection following bariatric surgery procedures for obesity:
  - a) Laparoscopic gastric restrictive surgery.
  - b) Laparoscopic gastric bypass.
  - c) Gastroenterostomy.
12. Surgical-site infection following placement of Cardiac Implantable Electronic Device (CIED).
13. Iatrogenic pneumothorax with venous catheterization.
14. Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT)/Pulmonary Embolism (PE) following certain orthopedic procedures:
  - a) Total knee replacement.
  - b) Hip replacement.

### **What This Means to Providers**

- Acute Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) hospital claims will be returned with no payment if the POA indicator is coded incorrectly or missing.
- No additional payment will be made on IPPS hospital claims for conditions that are acquired during the patient's hospitalization.

If you would like to find out more information regarding the Medicare HAC/POA Program, including billing requirements, the following CMS site provides further information: [cms.hhs.gov/HospitalAcqCond/](https://cms.hhs.gov/HospitalAcqCond/).

### **Molina Coding Policies and Payment Policies**

Frequently requested information on Molina's Coding Policies and Payment Policies is available on the [MolinaHealthcare.com](https://MolinaHealthcare.com) website under the Policies tab. Questions can be directed to your Provider Network Manager.

### **Reimbursement Guidance and Payment Guidelines**

Providers are responsible for submission of accurate claims. Molina requires coding of both diagnoses and procedures for all claims as follows:

- For diagnoses, the required coding schemes are the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification ICD-10-CM.
- For procedures:
  - Professional and outpatient claims require the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System, Current Procedural Terminology Level 1 (CPT codes), Levels 2 and 3 (HCPCS codes).
  - Inpatient hospital claims require ICD-10-PCS (International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Procedure Coding System).

Furthermore, Molina requires that all claims be coded in accordance with the HIPAA transaction code set guidelines and follow the guidelines within each code set.

Molina utilizes a claims adjudication system that encompasses edits and audits that follow federal requirements, and administers payment rules based on generally accepted principles of correct coding. These payment rules include, but are not limited to:

- Manuals and Relative Value Unit (RVU) files published by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), including:
  - National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) edits, including Procedure-to-Procedure (PTP) bundling edits and Medically Unlikely Edits (MUE). If a professional organization has a more stringent/restrictive standard than a federal MUE, the professional organization standard may be used.
  - Medicare National Coverage Determinations (NCD).
  - Medicare Local Coverage Determinations (LCD).
  - CMS Physician Fee Schedule RVU indicators.
- Current Procedural Technology (CPT) guidance published by the American Medical Association (AMA).
- ICD-10 guidance published by the National Center for Health Statistics.
- Other coding guidelines published by industry-recognized resources.
- Payment policies based on professional associations or other industry-recognized guidance for specific services. Such payment policies may be more stringent than federal guidelines.
- Molina policies based on the appropriateness of health care and Medical Necessity.
- Payment policies published by Molina.

## Telehealth Claims and Billing

Providers must follow CMS guidelines as well as state-level requirements.

All telehealth Claims for Molina Members **must** be submitted to Molina with correct codes for the plan type in accordance with applicable billing guidelines. For guidance, please refer to the resources located at [telehealth.hhs.gov/providers](https://telehealth.hhs.gov/providers).

## National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI)

CMS has directed all federal agencies to implement NCCI as policy in support of Section 6507 of the Patient Affordable Care Act. Molina uses NCCI standard payment methodologies.

NCCI procedure-to-procedure edits prevent inappropriate payment of services that should not be bundled or billed together and promote correct coding practices. Based on NCCI Coding Manual and CPT guidelines, some services/procedures performed in conjunction with an Evaluation and Management (E&M) code will bundle into the procedure when performed by the same physician, and separate reimbursement will not be allowed if the sole purpose for the visit is to perform the procedures.

NCCI editing also includes Medically Unlikely Edits (MUE), which prevent payment for an inappropriate number/quantity of the same service on a single day. An MUE for a HCPCS/CPT code is the maximum number of units of service under most circumstances reportable by the same Provider for the same patient on the same Date of Service. Providers must correctly report the most comprehensive CPT code that describes the service performed, including the most appropriate modifier when required.

## General Coding Requirements

Correct coding is required to properly process claims. Molina requires that all claims be coded in accordance with the HIPAA Transaction Code Set Guidelines and follow the guidelines within each code set.

## CPT and HCPCS Codes

Codes must be submitted in accordance with the chapter- and code-specific guidelines set forth in the current/applicable version of the AMA CPT and HCPCS codebooks. In order to ensure proper and timely reimbursement, codes must be effective on the Date of Service (DOS) for which the procedure or service was rendered and **not** the date of submission.

## Modifiers

Modifiers consist of two alphanumeric characters and are appended to HCPCS/CPT codes to provide additional information about the services rendered. Modifiers may be appended only if the clinical circumstances justify the use of the modifier(s). For example, modifiers may be used to indicate whether a:

- Service or procedure has a professional component.
- Service or procedure has a technical component.
- Service or procedure was performed by more than one physician.
- Unilateral procedure was performed.
- Bilateral procedure was performed.
- Service or procedure was provided more than once.
- Only part of a service was performed.

For a complete listing of modifiers and their appropriate use, consult the AMA CPT and the HCPCS codebooks.

### ICD-10-CM/PCS Codes

Molina utilizes the **International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM)** and **International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Procedure Coding System (ICD-10-PCS)** billing rules, and will deny claims that do not meet Molina's ICD-10 Claim Submission guidelines. To ensure proper and timely reimbursement, codes must be effective on the dates of service (DOS) for which the procedure or service was rendered and **not** the date of submission. Refer to the ICD-10 CM/PCS Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting on the proper assignment of principal and additional diagnosis codes.

### Place of Service (POS) Codes

Place of Service Codes (POS) are two-digit codes placed on health care professional Claims (CMS 1500) to indicate the setting in which a service was provided. CMS maintains POS codes used throughout the health care industry. The POS should be indicative of where that specific procedure/service was rendered. If billing multiple lines, each line should indicate the POS for the procedure/service on that line.

### Type of Bill

Type of bill is a four-digit alphanumeric code that gives three specific pieces of information after the first digit, a leading zero. The second digit identifies the type of facility. The third classifies the type of care. The fourth indicates the sequence of this bill in this particular episode of care, also referred to as a "frequency" code. For a complete list of codes, reference the National Uniform Billing Committee's (NUBC) Official CMS-1450 (UB-04) Data Specifications Manual.

### Revenue Codes

Revenue codes are four-digit codes used to identify specific accommodation and/or ancillary charges. Certain revenue codes require CPT/HCPCS codes to be billed. For a complete list of codes, reference the NUBC's Official CMS-1450 (UB-04) Data Specifications Manual.

### Diagnosis Related Group (DRG)

Facilities contracted to use DRG payment methodology submit claims with DRG coding. Claims submitted for payment by DRG must contain the minimum requirements to ensure accurate claim payment.

Molina processes DRG Claims through DRG software. If the submitted DRG and system-assigned DRG differ, the Molina-assigned DRG will take precedence. Providers may appeal with medical record documentation to support the ICD-10-CM principal and secondary diagnoses (if applicable) and/or the ICD-10-PCS procedure codes (if applicable). If the claim cannot be grouped due to insufficient information, it will be denied and returned for lack of sufficient information.

## National Drug Code (NDC)

The National Drug Code number (NDC) must be reported on all professional and outpatient claims when submitted on the CMS-1500 Claim form, CMS-1450 (UB-04), or its electronic equivalent.

Providers will need to submit claims with both HCPCS and NDC codes with the exact NDC that appears on the medication packaging in the “5-4-2 digit format” (i.e., xxxxx-xxxx-xx), as well as the NDC units and descriptors. Claims submitted without the NDC number will be denied.

## Coding Sources

### Definitions

**CPT**—Current Procedural Terminology 4th Edition: an American Medical Association (AMA)-maintained uniform coding system consisting of descriptive terms and codes that are used primarily to identify medical services and procedures furnished by physicians and other health care professionals. It has three types of CPT codes:

- Category I Code—Procedures/services.
- Category II Code—Performance measurement.
- Category III Code—Emerging technology.

**HCPCS**—HealthCare Common Procedural Coding System: a CMS-maintained uniform coding system consisting of descriptive terms and codes that are used primarily to identify procedure, supply, and durable medical-equipment codes furnished by physicians and other health care professionals.

**ICD-10-CM**—International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification: ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes are maintained by the National Center for Health Statistics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

**ICD-10-PCS**—International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Procedure Coding System: used to report procedures for inpatient hospital services.



## Claim Auditing

Molina shall use established industry claims adjudication and/or clinical practices, state, and federal guidelines, and/or Molina's policies and data to determine the appropriateness of the billing, coding, and payment.

Provider acknowledges Molina's right to conduct pre- and post-payment billing audits. Provider shall cooperate with Molina's Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and audits of claims and payments by providing access at reasonable times to requested claims information, all supporting medical records, Provider's charging policies, and other related data as deemed relevant to support the transactions billed. Providers are required to submit, or provide access to, medical records upon Molina's request. Failure to do so in a timely manner may result in an audit failure and/or denial, resulting in an overpayment.

In reviewing medical records for a procedure, Molina may select a statistically valid random sample, or smaller subset of the statistically valid random sample. This gives an estimate of the proportion of claims that Molina paid in error. The estimated proportion, or error rate, may be projected across all claims to determine the amount of overpayment.

Provider audits may be telephonic, an on-site visit, internal claims review, client-directed/regulatory investigation and/or compliance reviews and may be vendor assisted. Molina asks that you provide Molina, or Molina's designee, during normal business hours, access to examine, audit, scan, and copy any and all records necessary to determine compliance and accuracy of billing.

If Molina's SIU suspects fraudulent or abusive activity, Molina may conduct an on-site audit without notice. Should you refuse to allow access to your facilities, Molina reserves the right to recover the full amount paid or due to you.

## Timely Claim Processing

A complete claim is a claim that has no defect, impropriety, or lack of any required substantiating documentation as outlined in "Required Elements" above, or particular circumstance requiring special treatment that prevents timely payment from being made on the claim.

Claims processing will be completed for contracted Providers in accordance with the timeliness provisions set forth in the Provider's contract. Unless the Provider and Molina or contracted Medical Group/IPA have agreed in writing to an alternate schedule, Molina will process the claim for service as follows:

- 95% of the monthly volume of non-contracted clean claims are to be adjudicated within 30 calendar days of receipt.

- 95% of the monthly volume of contracted Claims are to be adjudicated within 60 calendar days of receipt.
- 95% of the monthly volume of non-clean, non-contracted Claims shall be paid or denied within 60 calendar days of receipt.

The receipt date of a claim is the date Molina receives notice of the Claim.

## Electronic Claim Payment

Participating Providers are **required** to enroll for Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) and Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA). Providers who enroll in EFT payments will automatically receive ERAs as well. EFT/ERA services allow Providers to reduce paperwork, provide searchable ERAs, and Providers receive payment and ERA access faster than the paper check and RA processes. There is no cost to the Provider for EFT enrollment, and Providers are not required to be in-network to enroll. Molina uses a vendor to facilitate the HIPAA compliant EFT payment and ERA delivery. Additional information about EFT/ERA is available at [MolinaHealthcare.com](https://MolinaHealthcare.com) or by contacting our Provider Network Management department.

## Overpayments and Incorrect Payments Refund Requests

If, as a result of retroactive review of claim payment, Molina determines that it has made an overpayment to a Provider for services rendered to a Member, it will make a claim for such overpayment. Providers will receive an overpayment request letter if the overpayment is identified in accordance with state and CMS guidelines. Providers will be given the option to either:

1. Submit a refund to satisfy overpayment.
2. Submit request to offset from future claim payments.
3. dispute overpayment findings.

Instructions will be provided on the overpayment notice, and overpayments will be adjusted and reflected in your remittance advice. The letter time frames are Molina standards and may vary depending on applicable state guidelines and contractual terms.

Overpayments related to TPL/COB will contain primary insurer information necessary for rebilling, including the policy number, effective date, term date, and subscriber information. For members with Commercial COB, Molina will provide notice within 270 days from the claim's paid date if the primary insurer is a Commercial plan. A provider may resubmit the claim with an attached primary EOB after submission to the primary payer for payment. Molina will adjudicate the claim and pay or deny the claim in accordance with claim processing guidelines.

A Provider shall pay a claim for an overpayment made by Molina which the Provider does not contest or dispute within the specified number of days on the refund request letter mailed to the Provider.

If a Provider does not repay or dispute the overpaid amount within the time frame allowed Molina may offset the overpayment amount(s) against future payments made to the Provider.

Payment of a claim for overpayment is considered made on the date payment was received or electronically transferred or otherwise delivered to Molina, or the date that the Provider receives a payment from Molina that reduces or deducts the overpayment.

## Claim Reconsideration

Providers requesting a reconsideration of a claim previously adjudicated must request such action within 120 calendar days of Molina's original remittance advice date or longer, as stated in the Provider Agreement (the Provider Agreement would supersede).

Reconsiderations are defined as:

- **Appeal**—Written request for reconsideration of a claim related to a complete denial of payment for services.
- **Dispute**—Written request for reconsideration of the amount paid on a claim after the claim has been adjudicated and payment has been remitted.

All claim reconsiderations **must** be submitted on the Molina Claims Dispute Request form found on the Provider website and the Availity Essentials portal. The form **must** be filled out completely in order to be processed. Additionally, the item(s) being resubmitted should be clearly marked as **reconsideration** and **must** include the following documentation:

- Any documentation to support the adjustment.
- A copy of the Authorization form (if applicable).
- The claim number clearly marked on **all** supporting documents.

**Note:** Corrected claims are to be directed through the original claim's submission process, clearly identified as a **corrected** claim.

All Appeals and Disputes must be submitted to Molina through one of the following:

- **Availity Essentials Portal (preferred):** [provider.molinahealthcare.com](https://provider.molinahealthcare.com).
- **Fax:** (562) 499-0610

**Note:** Requests for adjustments of claims paid by a delegated Medical Group/IPA must be submitted to the group responsible for payment of the original claim.

The Provider will be notified of Molina's decision in writing within 60 calendar days of receipt of the Claim Reconsideration request.

Questions pertaining to claim redetermination requests are to be directed to the Provider Network Management team at **(855) 866-5462**.

## Balance Billing

Pursuant to law, Members who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid shall **not** be held liable for Medicare Parts A and B cost-sharing when the state or another payer is responsible for paying such amounts. The Provider is responsible for verifying eligibility and obtaining approval for those services that require Prior Authorization.

Providers agree that under **no circumstance** shall a Member be liable to the Provider for any sums that are the legal obligation of Molina to the Provider. Balance billing a Member for Covered Services is **prohibited**, except for the Member's applicable copayment, coinsurance, and/or deductible amounts.

## Fraud, Waste, and Abuse

Failure to report instances of suspected fraud, waste, and abuse is a violation of the law and subject to the penalties provided by law. Please refer to the Compliance section of this Provider Manual for more information.

## Encounter Data

Each Provider, capitated Provider, or organization delegated for claims processing is required to submit Encounter Data to Molina for all adjudicated claims. The data is used for many purposes, such as regulatory reporting, rate setting, risk adjustment, hospital rate setting, the Quality Improvement program, and HEDIS® reporting.

Encounter Data must be submitted at least once per month, and within 30 days from the date of service in order to meet state and CMS encounter submission threshold and quality measures. Encounter Data must be submitted via HIPAA-compliant transactions, including the ANSI X12N 837I: 837I for Institutional, 837P for Professional, and 837D for Dental. Data must be submitted with claims level detail for all non-institutional services provided.

Molina has a comprehensive automated and integrated Encounter Data system capable of supporting all 837 file formats and proprietary formats if needed.

Providers must correct and resubmit any encounters that are rejected (non-HIPAA compliant) or denied by Molina. Encounters must be corrected and resubmitted within 15 days from the rejection/denial.

Molina has created 837P, 837I, and 837D Companion Guides with the specific submission requirements available to Providers.

When Encounters are filed electronically Providers should receive two types of responses:

- First, Molina will provide a 999 acknowledgement of the transmission.
- Second, Molina will provide a 277CA response file for each transaction.

## 14. MEDICARE MEMBER GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS

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### Distinguishing Between Appeals Involving Provider Liability and Appeals Involving Member Liability

All Member liability denials are subject to the Member Appeals terms of this Provider Manual described below. The Member will receive the appropriate denial notice with appeal rights [e.g., Integrated Denial Notice, Notice of Denial of Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage, Important Message from Medicare (IM), Notice of Medicare Non-Coverage (NOMNC), or Explanation of Benefits (EOB)]. When Member liability is assigned, the Member Appeals process must be followed.

Disputes between Molina and a contracted Provider that do not result in an adverse determination or liability for the Member are subject to the Claims Appeals provisions of this Provider Manual. The Parts C & D Enrollee Grievances, Organization/Coverage Determinations, and Appeals Guidance of the Medicare Managed Care Manual specifically state that contracted Providers do not have appeal rights on their own behalf under the Medicare Member appeals process. Contracted Provider disputes involving plan payment denials are governed by the appeals and dispute resolution provisions of the relevant Provider Agreement.

When Molina determines that a contracted Provider failed to follow the terms and conditions of the relevant Provider Agreement or Provider Manual, either administratively or by not providing the clinical information needed to substantiate the services requested, the contracted Provider is prohibited from billing the Member for the services unless Molina assigned Member liability and issued the appropriate notice with Member appeal rights. Additional information on the Contracted Provider claims appeal process can be found in the Claim Reconsideration subsection located in the Claims and Compensation section of this Provider Manual.

### Definition of Key Terms Used in the Medicare Member Grievances and Appeals Process

**Appeal**—Medicare defines an appeal as the procedures that deal with the review of adverse initial determinations made by the Plan on health care services or benefits under Part C or Part D that the Member believes they are entitled to receive, including a delay in providing, arranging for, or approving health care services or drug coverage (when a delay would adversely affect the Member's health), or on any amounts the Member must pay for a service or drug. These appeal procedures include a Plan reconsideration (Part C) or redetermination (Part D) (also referred to as a Level 1 appeal), a reconsideration

by an independent review entity (IRE), adjudication by an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) or attorney adjudicator, review by the Medicare Appeals Council (Council), and judicial review.

**Authorized Representative**—An individual appointed by the Member or authorized under state law to act on behalf of the Member in filing a grievance or appeal. An Authorized Representative has all of the rights and responsibilities of the Member. For Medicare, a Member may be appointed using the CMS Appointment of Representative Form found at [cms.gov/cmsforms/downloads/cms1696.pdf](https://cms.gov/cmsforms/downloads/cms1696.pdf).

**Beneficiary- and Family-Centered Care Quality Improvement Organization (BFCC-QIO or QIO)**—Organizations comprised of practicing doctors and other health care experts under contract to the federal government to monitor and improve the care given to Medicare Enrollees. The BFCC-QIOs review beneficiary complaints about the quality of care provided by physicians, inpatient hospitals, hospital outpatient departments, hospital Emergency Rooms, Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs), Home Health Agencies (HHAs), Medicare managed care plans, Medicare Part D prescription drug plans, and ambulatory surgical centers. The BFCC-QIOs also review continued stay denials in acute inpatient hospital facilities, as well as coverage terminations in SNFs, HHAs, and comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facilities (CORFs). In some cases, the BFCC-QIO can provide informal dispute resolution between the health care provider (e.g., physician, hospital, etc.) and the beneficiary.

**Grievance**—An expression of dissatisfaction with any aspect of the operations, activities, or behavior of a Medicare Advantage Plan or its delegated entity in the provision of health care items, services, or prescription drugs, regardless of whether remedial action is requested or can be taken. A Grievance does not include and is distinct from, an Appeal. Examples of a grievance include but are not limited to the quality of care, aspects of interpersonal relationships such as rudeness of a Provider or Plan employee, waiting times for an appointment, cleanliness of Contracted Provider facilities, failure of the Plan or a Contracted Provider to respect the Member's rights under the Plan, involuntary disenrollment, Plan benefit design, the coverage decision or appeals process, the Plan formulary, or the availability of Contracted Providers.

## Medicare Member Liability Appeals

### How to File an Appeal

For expedited appeals, call the Molina Contact Center at **(833) 306-3394**.

For standard appeals (non-Part D drug), mail or fax a written appeal to:

Molina Healthcare of Illinois, Inc.  
Attn: Grievances and Appeals  
P.O. Box 22816  
Long Beach, CA 90801-9977  
**Fax:** (562) 499-0610

For information on Part D appeals/redeterminations, please see the Medicare Part D section in this Provider Manual.

Members and their Authorized Representatives (and treating Providers acting on their behalf) have 60 days from the date of the denial to file an appeal. This time frame may be extended for good cause.

## **Participating Provider Responsibilities in the Medicare Member Appeals Process**

- Appeals should include the Member's name, contact information, Member ID number, health plan name, the reason for appealing, and any evidence to support the request.
- Providers can request appeals on behalf of Members; however, if the appeal is not requested by a treating physician, an Appointment of Representative (AOR) Form may be required. The AOR Form can be found online and downloaded at [cms.gov/Medicare/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms/downloads/cms1696.pdf](https://cms.gov/Medicare/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms/downloads/cms1696.pdf).
- Please provide all medical records and/or supporting documentation with the appeal request.
- Expedited appeals should only be requested if waiting the time frame for a standard appeal could jeopardize the Member's life, health, or ability to regain maximum function.

## **Time Frames**

Appeal decisions are made as expeditiously as the member's health condition requires and within regulatory time frames. For Molina Medicare Choice Care (HMO):

Expedited Pre-Service (non-Part B, non-Part D drug)	72 hours
Expedited Pre-Service Part B drug	72 hours
Expedited Pre-Service Part D drug	72 hours
Standard Pre-Service (non-Part B, non-Part D drug)	30 calendar days
Standard Pre-Service Part B drug	7 calendar days
Standard Pre-Service Part D drug	7 calendar days
Standard Post-Service (Part C)	60 calendar days
Standard Post-Service Part D drug	14 calendar days



Extensions may be allowed under specific conditions (except requests involving a Part B or Part D drug).

### **Medicare Member Appeals: Further Appeal Rights**

If Molina upholds the initial adverse determination, in whole or in part, for a Part C item or service (including a Part B drug), the appeal will be forwarded to an Independent Review Entity (IRE). (For Part D upholds, the Member must request a review by the IRE.) The IRE is a CMS contractor independent of Molina. If the IRE upholds the initial adverse determination and the amount in controversy requirements are met, the Member may continue to an additional level of appeal with an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) or attorney adjudicator. Additional levels of appeal are available to the Member if the amount in controversy requirements are met, including an appeal to the Medicare Appeals Council (MAC) and federal court.

### **Member Liability Appeals: Hospital Discharge Appeals**

Hospital discharges are subject to an expedited Member appeal process. Members receive their appeal rights through the delivery of the Important Message from Medicare (IM, Form CMS-10065) by the hospital. For additional information on delivery of the IM, see the Termination of Inpatient Hospital Services section of this Provider Manual.

Members disputing their discharge decision may request an immediate appeal to the QIO for the service area (Livanta or Kepro). The Member must appeal to the QIO as soon as possible and no later than the planned discharge date and before the Member leaves the hospital. The QIO will typically respond within one day after receiving all necessary information.

If the QIO agrees with the discharge decision, the Member will be responsible for payment for continued care beginning at noon of the calendar day following the day the QIO provides notice of its decision to the Member. The Member may request a reconsideration from the QIO if they remain in the hospital. If the QIO continues to agree with the discharge decision, the Member may appeal to an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) or attorney adjudicator.

If the QIO disagrees with the discharge decision, the Member is not responsible for any continued care (aside from any applicable deductibles or copayments) without proper notification that includes their appeal rights located within the IM. The Member will then have an opportunity to appeal that subsequent discharge determination.

If the Member misses the deadline to file an appeal with the QIO and is still in the hospital, the Member (or their Authorized Representative) may request an

expedited pre-service appeal with the Plan. In this case, the Member does not have financial protection during the course of the expedited pre-service appeal and may be financially liable for the cost of additional hospital days beyond the discharge date if the original decision to discharge is upheld.

## **Member Liability Appeals: SNF, CORF, and HHA Termination of Services Appeals**

Discharges from care provided by a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) (including a swing bed in a hospital providing Part A and Part B services), Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facility (CORF), or Home Health Agency (HHA) are subject to an expedited (fast-track) Member appeal process. For this purpose, a discharge means the complete termination of services and not the termination of a single service when other services continue (e.g., when the Member is receiving skilled nursing, skilled therapy, and home health aide services from an HHA and only the home health aide services are terminated while the other services continue).

When a single service is terminated and other services continue, an Integrated Denial Notice (IDN) with Member appeal rights is issued to the Member. Members receive their discharge appeal rights through the delivery of the Notice of Medicare Non-Coverage (NOMNC) by the SNF, CORF, or HHA. For additional information on delivery of the NOMNC, see the Termination of SNF, CORF, and HHA Services section of this Provider Manual.

Members disputing their discharge decision may request an expedited (fast-track) appeal to the QIO for the service area (Livanta or Kepro). The Member must appeal to the QIO by noon of the calendar day after the NOMNC is delivered. The QIO will typically respond by the effective date provided in the NOMNC (the last covered day).

If the QIO agrees with the discharge decision, the Member will be responsible for payment for continued care received beyond the last covered day provided in the NOMNC. The Member has an opportunity to request a reconsideration from the QIO if they remain in the SNF or continue to receive services from the CORF or HHA beyond the last covered day provided in the NOMNC. If the QIO continues to agree with the discharge decision, the Member may appeal to an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) or attorney adjudicator.

If the QIO disagrees with the discharge decision, the Member is not responsible for any continued care (aside from any applicable deductibles or copayments) without proper notification that includes their appeal rights located within the NOMNC. The Member will then have an opportunity to appeal that subsequent termination of services (discharge) determination.

If the Member misses the deadline to file an appeal with the QIO and is still in the SNF or continuing to receive services from the CORF or HHA beyond the last covered day provided in the NOMNC, the Member (or Authorized Representative) may request an expedited pre-service appeal with the Plan. In this case, the Member does not have financial protection during the course of the expedited pre-service appeal and may be financially liable for the cost of additional services provided beyond the discharge date (last covered day) if the original decision to discharge is upheld.

## **Member Liability Appeals: Obtaining Additional Information About the Member Appeal Process**

For additional information about Member appeal rights, call Molina's Provider Contact Center toll-free at **(833) 306-3394** or 711 for persons with hearing impairments (TTY/TDD). A detailed explanation of the appeal process is also included in the Member's Evidence of Coverage (EOC) (or Member Handbook), which is available on Molina's website. If Members have additional questions, please refer them to Molina's Member Contact Center.

## **Medicare Member Grievances**

A Member may file a grievance verbally or in writing within 60 days of the event precipitating the grievance. Grievances are typically responded to by the Plan within 30 days. The Plan may also be allowed to take an extension under certain circumstances.

Medicare allows an expedited grievance only if the Plan diverts an expedited request for a coverage decision or appeal to the standard time frame or if the Plan takes an extension in making a coverage decision or deciding an appeal (when allowed). These expedited grievances are decided within 24 hours.

Members may file a grievance by calling Molina's Member Contact Center at **(833) 306-3394** or by writing to:

Molina Healthcare of Illinois, Inc.  
Attn: Grievances and Appeals  
P.O. Box 22816  
Long Beach, CA 90801-9977  
**Fax:** (562) 499-0610

## 15. CREDENTIALING AND RECREDENTIALING

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The purpose of the Credentialing Program is to assure that Molina Healthcare and its subsidiaries (Molina) network consists of quality Providers who meet clearly defined criteria and standards. It is the objective of Molina to provide superior health care to the community. Additional information is available in the Credentialing Policy and Procedure, which can be requested by contacting your Molina Provider Network Manager.

The decision to accept or deny a credentialing applicant is based upon primary source verification, secondary source verification, and additional information as required. The information gathered is confidential, and disclosure is limited to parties who are legally permitted to have access to the information under state and federal law.

The Credentialing Program has been developed in accordance with state and federal requirements, and the standards of the National Committee of Quality Assurance (NCQA). The Credentialing Program is reviewed annually, revised, and updated as needed.

### **Non-Discriminatory Credentialing and Recredentialing**

Molina does not make credentialing and recredentialing decisions based on an applicant's race, ethnic/national identity, gender, gender identity, age, sexual orientation, ancestry, religion, marital status, health status, or patient types (e.g., Medicaid) in which the practitioner specializes. This does not preclude Molina from including in the network Practitioners who meet certain demographic or specialty needs—for example, to meet cultural needs of Members.

### **Types of Practitioners Credentialed and Recredentialed**

Practitioners and groups of practitioners with whom Molina contracts must be credentialed prior to the contract being implemented. Practitioner types requiring credentialing include but are not limited to:

- Acupuncturists
- Addiction medicine specialists
- Audiologists
- Behavioral health care practitioners who are licensed, certified, or registered by the state to practice independently
- Chiropractors
- Clinical social workers
- Dentists
- Doctoral or master's-level psychologists
- Licensed/certified midwives (non-nurse)

- Massage therapists
- Master's-level clinical social workers
- Master's-level clinical nurse specialists or psychiatric nurse practitioners
- Medical Doctors (MD)
- Naturopathic physicians
- Nurse midwives
- Nurse practitioners
- Occupational therapists
- Optometrists
- Oral surgeons
- Osteopathic Physicians (DO)
- Pharmacists
- Physical therapists
- Physician assistants
- Podiatrists
- Psychiatrists and other physicians
- Speech and language pathologists
- Telemedicine practitioners

### **Criteria for Participation in the Molina Network**

Molina has established criteria and the sources used to verify these criteria for the evaluation and selection of practitioners for participation in the Molina Provider Network. These criteria have been designed to assess a Practitioner's ability to deliver care. This policy defines the criteria applied to applicants for initial participation, recredentialing, and ongoing participation in the Molina Network. To remain eligible for participation, Practitioners must continue to satisfy all applicable requirements for participation as stated herein and in all other documentations provided by Molina.

Molina reserves the right to exercise discretion in applying any criteria and to exclude Practitioners who do not meet the criteria. Molina may, after considering the recommendations of the Professional Review Committee, waive any of the requirements for network participation established pursuant to these policies for good cause if it is determined such waiver is necessary to meet the needs of Molina and the community it serves. The refusal of Molina to waive any requirement shall not entitle any Practitioner to a hearing or any other rights of review.

Practitioners must meet the following criteria to be eligible to participate in the Molina network. The Practitioner shall have the burden of producing adequate information to prove they meet all criteria for initial participation and continued participation in the Molina Provider Network. If the Practitioner does not provide

this information, the credentialing application will be deemed incomplete, and it will result in an administrative denial or administrative termination from the Molina Network. Practitioners who fail to provide this burden of proof do not have the right to submit an appeal.

- **Application**—Practitioners must submit to Molina a complete credentialing application, either from CAQH ProView or other state-mandated practitioner application. The attestation must be signed within 120 days. Application must include all required attachments.
- **License, Certification or Registration**—Practitioners must hold a current and valid license, certification, or registration to practice in their specialty in every state in which they will provide care and/or render services for Molina Members. Telemedicine Practitioners are required to be licensed in the state where they are located and the state where the Member is located.
- **DEA or CDS Certificate**—Practitioners must hold a current, valid, unrestricted Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) or Controlled Dangerous Substances (CDS) certificate. Practitioner must have a DEA or CDS in every state where the Practitioner provides care to Molina Members. If a Practitioner has never had any disciplinary action taken related to their DEA and/or CDS and has a pending DEA/CDS certificate or chooses not to have a DEA and/or CDS certificate, the Practitioner must then provide a documented process that allows another Practitioner with a valid DEA and/or CDS certificate to write all prescriptions requiring a DEA number.
- **Specialty**—Practitioners must only be credentialed in the specialty in which they have adequate education and training. Practitioners must confine their practice to their credentialed area of practice when providing services to Molina Members.
- **Education**—Practitioners must have graduated from an accredited school with a degree required to practice in their designated specialty.
- **Residency Training**—Practitioners must have satisfactorily completed a residency program from an accredited training program in the specialty in which they are practicing. Molina only recognizes residency training programs that have been accredited by the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) in the United States or by the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC), the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. Oral Surgeons must complete a training program in oral and maxillofacial surgery accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). Training must be successfully completed prior to completing the verification. It is not acceptable to verify completion prior to graduation from the program. As of July 2013, podiatric residencies are required to be three years in length. If the podiatrist has not completed a three-year residency or

is not board certified, the podiatrist must have five years of work history practicing podiatry.

- **Fellowship Training**—If the Practitioner is not board certified in the specialty in which they practice and has not completed a residency program in the specialty in which they practice, they must have completed a fellowship program from an accredited training program in the specialty in which they are practicing.
- **Board Certification**—Board certification in the specialty in which the Practitioner is practicing is not required. Initial applicants who are not board certified will be considered for participation if they have satisfactorily completed a residency program from an accredited training program in the specialty in which they are practicing. Molina recognizes board certification only from the following boards:
  - American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)
  - American Osteopathic Association (AOA)
  - American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery (ABFAS)
  - American Board of Podiatric Medicine (ABPM)
  - American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
  - American Board of Addiction Medicine (ABAM)
  - College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC)
  - Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC)
  - Behavioral Analyst Certification Board (BACB)
  - National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)
- **General Practitioners**—Practitioners who are not board certified and have not completed training from an accredited program are only eligible to be considered for participation as a General Practitioner in the Molina network. To be eligible, the practitioner must have maintained a primary care practice in good standing for a minimum of the most recent five years without any gaps in work history. Molina will consider allowing a Practitioner who is/was board certified and/or residency trained into a specialty other than primary care to participate as a General Practitioner, if the Practitioner is applying to participate as a Primary Care Physician, or as an Urgent Care or Wound Care Practitioner. General Practitioners providing only wound care services do not require five years of work history as a PCP.
- **Nurse Practitioners & Physician Assistants**—In certain circumstances, Molina may credential a Practitioner who is not licensed to practice independently. In these instances, the Practitioner providing the supervision and/or oversight must also be contracted and credentialed with Molina.
- **Work History**—Practitioners must supply most recent five years of relevant work history on the application or curriculum vitae. Relevant work history includes work as a health professional. If a gap in employment exceeds six

months, the Practitioner must clarify the gap verbally or in writing. The organization will document verbal clarification in the Practitioner's credentialing file. If the gap in employment exceeds one year, the Practitioner must clarify the gap in writing.

- **Malpractice History**—Practitioners must supply a history of malpractice and professional liability claims and settlement history in accordance with the application. Documentation of malpractice, and professional liability claims and settlement history is requested from the Practitioner on the credentialing application. If there is an affirmative response to the related disclosure questions on the application, a detailed response is required from the Practitioner.
- **State Sanctions, Restrictions on Licensure, or Limitations on Scope of Practice**—Practitioners must disclose a full history of all license/certification/registration actions, including denials, revocations, terminations, suspension, restrictions, reductions, limitations, sanctions, probations, and non-renewals. Practitioners must also disclose any history of voluntarily or involuntarily relinquishing, withdrawing, or failure to proceed with an application in order to avoid an adverse action or to preclude an investigation or while under investigation relating to professional competence or conduct. If there is an affirmative response to the related disclosure questions on the application, a detailed response is required from the Practitioner. At the time of initial application, the Practitioner must not have any pending or open investigations from any state or governmental professional disciplinary body<sup>3</sup>. This would include Statement of Charges, Notice of Proposed Disciplinary Action, or the equivalent.
- **Medicare, Medicaid and other Sanctions and Exclusions**—Practitioners must not be currently sanctioned, excluded, expelled, or suspended from any state or federally funded program, including but not limited to the Medicare or Medicaid programs. Practitioners must disclose all Medicare and Medicaid

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<sup>3</sup> If a practitioner's application is denied solely because a practitioner has a pending Statement of Charges, Notice of Proposed Disciplinary Action, Notice of Agency Action or the equivalent from any state or governmental professional disciplinary body, the practitioner may reapply as soon as practitioner is able to demonstrate that any pending Statement of Charges, Notice of Proposed Disciplinary Action, Notice of Agency Action, or the equivalent from any state or governmental professional disciplinary body is resolved, even if the application is received less than one year from the date of original denial.



sanctions. If there is an affirmative response to the related disclosure questions on the application, a detailed response is required from the Practitioner. Practitioners must disclose all debarments, suspensions, proposals for debarments, exclusions, or disqualifications under the non-procurement common rule, or when otherwise declared ineligible from receiving federal contracts, certain subcontracts, and certain federal assistance and benefits. If there is an affirmative response to the related disclosure questions on the application, a detailed response is required from the Practitioner.

- **Medicare Opt-Out**—Practitioners currently listed on the Medicare Opt-Out Report may not participate in the Molina network for any Medicare or Duals (Medicare/Medicaid) lines of business.
- **Social Security Administration Death Master File**—Practitioners must provide their Social Security number. That Social Security number should not be listed on the Social Security Administration Death Master File.
- **Medicare Preclusion List**—Practitioners currently listed on the Preclusion List may not participate in the Molina Network for any Medicare or Duals (Medicare/Medicaid) lines of business.
- **Professional Liability Insurance**—Practitioners must have and maintain professional malpractice liability insurance with limits that meet Molina criteria. This coverage shall extend to Molina Members and the Practitioners activities on Molina's behalf. Practitioners maintaining coverage under federal tort or self-insured policies are not required to include amounts of coverage on their application for professional or medical malpractice insurance.
- **Inability to Perform**—Practitioners must disclose any inability to perform essential functions of a practitioner in their area of practice with or without reasonable accommodation. If there is an affirmative response to the related disclosure questions on the application, a detailed response is required from the Practitioner.
- **Lack of Present Illegal Drug Use**—Practitioners must disclose if they are currently using any illegal drugs/substances.
- **Criminal Convictions**—Practitioners must disclose if they have ever had any of the following:
  - Criminal convictions including any convictions, guilty pleas, or adjudicated pretrial diversions for crimes against person such as murder, rape, assault, and other similar crimes.
  - Financial crimes such as extortion, embezzlement, income tax evasion, insurance fraud, and other similar crimes.

- Any crime that placed the Medicaid or Medicare program or its beneficiaries at immediate risk, such as a malpractice suit that results in a conviction of criminal neglect or misconduct.
- Any crime that would result in mandatory exclusion under section 1128 of the Social Security Act.
- Any crime related to fraud, kickbacks, health care fraud, claims for excessive charges, unnecessary services or services which fail to meet professionally recognized standards of health care, patient abuse or neglect, controlled substances, or similar crimes.

At the time of initial credentialing, Practitioners must not have any pending criminal charges in the categories listed above.

- **Loss or Limitations of Clinical Privileges**—At initial credentialing, Practitioners must disclose all past and present issues regarding loss or limitation of clinical privileges at all facilities or organizations with which the Practitioner has had privileges. If there is an affirmative response to the related disclosure questions on the application, a detailed response is required from the Practitioner. At recredentialing, Practitioners must disclose past and present issues regarding loss or limitation of clinical privileges at all facilities or organizations with which the Practitioner has had privileges since the previous credentialing cycle.
- **Hospital Privileges**—Practitioners must list all current hospital privileges on their credentialing application. If the Practitioner has current privileges, they must be in good standing.
- **NPI**—Practitioners must have a National Provider Identifier (NPI) issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

### **Notification of Discrepancies in Credentialing Information & Practitioner’s Right to Correct Erroneous Information**

Molina will notify the practitioner immediately in writing if credentialing information obtained from other sources varies substantially from that provided by the Practitioner. Examples include but are not limited to actions on a license, malpractice claims history, board certification actions, sanctions, or exclusions. Molina is not required to reveal the source of information if the information is obtained to meet organization credentialing verification requirements or if disclosure is prohibited by law.

Practitioners have the right to correct erroneous information in their credentials file. Practitioner’s rights are published on the Molina website and are included in this Provider Manual.

The notification sent to the Practitioner will detail the information in question and will include instructions to the Practitioner indicating:

- Their requirement to submit a written response within 10 calendar days of receiving notification from Molina.
- In their response, the Practitioner must explain the discrepancy, may correct any erroneous information, and may provide any proof that is available.
- The Practitioner's response must be sent to Molina Healthcare, Inc. Attention: Credentialing Director, PO Box 2470, Spokane, WA 99210

Upon receipt of notification from the Practitioner, Molina will document receipt of the information in the Practitioner's credentials file. Molina will then re-verify the primary source information in dispute. If the primary source information has changed, correction will be made immediately to the Practitioner's credentials file. The Practitioner will be notified in writing that the correction has been made to their credentials file. If the primary source information remains inconsistent with the Practitioners' information, the Credentialing department will notify the Practitioner.

If the Practitioner does not respond within ten calendar days, their application processing will be discontinued, and network participation will be administratively denied or terminated.

### **Practitioner's Right to Review Information Submitted to Support Their Credentialing Application**

Practitioners have the right to review their credentials file at any time. Practitioner's rights are published on the Molina website and are included in this Provider Manual.

The Practitioner must notify the Credentialing department and request an appointment time to review their file and allow up to seven calendar days to coordinate schedules. A Medical Director and the Director responsible for Credentialing or the Quality Improvement Director will be present. The Practitioner has the right to review all information in the credentials file except peer references or recommendations protected by law from disclosure.

The only items in the file that may be copied by the Practitioner are documents which the Practitioner sent to Molina (e.g., the application and any other attachments submitted with the application from the Practitioner. Practitioners may not copy any other documents from the credentialing file.

## **Practitioner's Right to Be Informed of Application Status**

Practitioners have the right, upon request, to be informed of the status of their application by telephone, email, or mail. Practitioner's rights are published on the Molina website and are included in this Provider Manual.

Molina will respond to the request within two working days. Molina will share with the Practitioner where the application is in the credentialing process, to include any missing information or information not yet verified.

## **Notification of Credentialing Decisions**

Initial credentialing decisions are communicated to Practitioners via letter or email. This notification is sent by the Molina Medical Director within two weeks of the decision. Under no circumstance will notifications letters be sent to the Practitioners later than 60 calendar days from the decision. Notification of recredentialing approvals is not required.

## **Recredentialing**

Molina recredentials every Practitioner at least every 36 months.

## **Excluded Providers**

Excluded Provider means an individual Provider; or an entity with an officer, director, agent, manager, or individual who owns or has a controlling interest in the entity who has been convicted of crimes as specified in section 1128 of the Social Security Act (SSA); excluded from participation in the Medicare or Medicaid program, assessed a civil penalty under the provisions of section 1128, or has a contractual relationship with an entity convicted of a crime specified in section 1128.

Pursuant to section 1128 of the SSA, Molina and its subcontractors may not subcontract with an Excluded Provider/person. Molina and its subcontractors shall terminate subcontracts immediately when Molina and its subcontractors become aware of such excluded Provider/person or when Molina and its subcontractors receive notice. Molina and its subcontractors certify that neither it nor its Provider is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any federal department or agency. Where Molina and its subcontractors are unable to certify any of the statements in this certification, Molina and its subcontractors shall attach a written explanation to this Agreement.

## **Ongoing Monitoring of Sanctions and Exclusions**

Molina monitors the following agencies for Practitioner sanctions and exclusions between recredentialing cycles for all Practitioner types and takes appropriate

action against Practitioners when occurrences of poor quality are identified. If a Molina Practitioner is found to be sanctioned or excluded, the Practitioner's contract will immediately be terminated effective the same date as the sanction or exclusion was implemented.

- **The United States Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), Office of Inspector General (OIG) Fraud Prevention and Detection Exclusions Program**—Monitor for individuals and entities that have been excluded from Medicare and Medicaid programs.
- **State Medicaid Exclusions**—Monitor for state Medicaid exclusions through each state's specific Program Integrity Unit (or equivalent).
- **Medicare Exclusion Database (MED)**—Monitor for Medicare exclusions through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) MED online application site.
- **Medicare Preclusion List**—Monitor for individuals and entities that are reported on the Medicare Preclusion List.
- **National Practitioner Database**—Molina enrolls all credentialed Practitioners with the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) Continuous Query service to monitor for adverse actions on license, DEA, hospital privileges, and malpractice history between credentialing cycles.
- **System for Award Management (SAM)**—Monitor for Practitioners sanctioned by SAM.

Molina also monitors the following for all Practitioner types between the recredentialing cycles:

- Member complaints/grievances
- Adverse events
- Medicare Opt-Out
- Social Security Administration Death Master File

## Provider Appeal Rights

In cases where the Credentialing Committee suspends or terminates a Practitioner's contract based on quality of care or professional conduct, a certified letter is sent to the Practitioner describing the adverse action taken and the reason for the action, including notification to the Practitioner of the right to a fair hearing when required pursuant to laws or regulations.

## 16. DELEGATION

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Delegation is a process that gives another entity the ability to perform specific functions on behalf of Molina. Molina may delegate:

1. Utilization Management
2. Credentialing and recredentialing
3. Claims
4. Complex Case Management
5. CMS Preclusion List monitoring
6. Other clinical and administrative functions

When Molina delegates any clinical or administrative functions, Molina remains responsible to external regulatory agencies and other entities for the performance of the delegated activities, including functions that may be sub-delegated. To become a delegate, the Provider/Accountable Care Organization (ACO)/vendor must be in compliance with Molina's established delegation criteria and standards. Molina's Delegation Oversight Committee (DOC), or other designated committee, must approve all delegation and sub-delegation arrangements. To remain a delegate, the Provider/ACO/vendor must maintain compliance with Molina's standards and best practices.

### Delegation Reporting Requirements

Delegated entities contracted with Molina must submit monthly and quarterly reports. Such reports will be determined by the function(s) delegated and will be reviewed by Molina Delegation Oversight staff for compliance with performance expectations within the timeline indicated by Molina.

### Corrective Action Plans and Revocation of Delegated Activities

If it is determined that the delegate is out of compliance with Molina's guidelines or regulatory requirements, Molina may require the delegate to develop a corrective action plan designed to bring the delegate into compliance. Molina may also revoke delegated activities if it is determined that the delegate cannot achieve compliance or if Molina determines that is the best course of action.

If you have additional questions related to delegated functions, please contact your Molina Contract Manager.

## 17. MEDICARE PART D

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A Part D coverage determination is a decision about whether to provide or pay for a Part D drug, a decision concerning a tiering exception request, a formulary exception request, a decision on the amount of cost sharing for a drug, or whether a Member has or has not satisfied a Prior Authorization or other UM requirement.

Any party to a coverage determination, (e.g., a Member, a Member's representative, or a Member's prescriber) may request that the determination be appealed. A Member, a Member's representative, or Provider are the only parties who may request that Molina expedite a coverage determination or redetermination.

Coverage determinations are either standard or expedited depending on the urgency of the Member's request.

### Appeals/Redeterminations

When a Member's request for a coverage determination is denied, Members may choose someone (including an attorney, Provider, or other authorized representative) to serve as their personal representative to act on their behalf. After the date of the denial, a Member has up to 60 days to request a redetermination. This is the first level of appeal for Part D adverse decisions. Appeal data is confidential.

The redetermination request will be responded to within seven days. If an expedited appeal is required for an emergent situation, then the decision will be made within 72 hours of the request.

At any time during the appeal process, the Member or personal representative may submit written comments, papers, or other data about the appeal in person or in writing. If the appeal/reconsideration is denied, the Member has the right to send the appeal to the Independent Review Entity (IRE) within 60 days of receipt of the appeal. The IRE has seven days to make a decision for a standard appeal/reconsideration and 72 hours for an expedited request. The IRE will notify Molina and the Member of the decision. When an expedited review is requested, the IRE will make a decision within 72 hours.

If the IRE changes the Molina decision, authorization for service must be made within 72 hours for standard appeals and within 24 hours for expedited appeals.

Payment appeals must be paid within 30 days from the date the plan receives notice of the reversal.

If the IRE upholds Molina's denial, it will inform the Member of their right to a hearing with the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) and will describe the procedures that must be followed to obtain an ALJ hearing.

CMS's IRE monitors Molina's compliance with determinations to decisions that fully or partially reverse an original Molina denial. The IRE is currently MAXIMUS Federal Services, Inc.

## Part D Prescription Drug Exception Policy

CMS defines a coverage determination as the first decision made by a plan regarding the prescription drug benefits a Member is entitled to receive under the plan, including a decision not to provide or pay for a Part D drug, a decision concerning an exception request, and a decision on the amount of cost-sharing for a drug.

An exception request is a type of coverage determination request. Through the exceptions process, a Member can request an off-formulary drug, an exception to the plan's tiered cost-sharing structure, and an exception to the application of a cost UM tool (e.g., step therapy requirement, dose restriction, or Prior Authorization requirement).

Molina is committed to providing access to medically necessary prescription drugs to Members of Molina. If a drug is prescribed that is not on Molina's formulary, the Member or Member's representative may file for an exception. All exceptions and appeals are handled at the plan level (on-site) and are not delegated to another entity. Please see below for contact information by plan for personnel who handle the exceptions. Members or the Member's representatives (who can include Providers and pharmacists) may call, write, fax, or e-mail Molina's exception contact person to request an exception. Procedures and forms to apply for an exception may be obtained from the contact persons.

Part D exceptions and appeals contact information: call Molina at **(800) 665-3086** or fax **(866) 290-1309**.

The Policy and Procedure for Exceptions and Appeals will be reviewed by a Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee on an annual basis at minimum. Exception/Prior Authorization criteria are also reviewed and approved by a P&T Committee.

1. **Formulary**—A list of medications selected by Molina in consultation with a team of health care Providers, which represents the prescription therapies believed to be a necessary part of a quality treatment program. Molina will generally cover the drugs listed in our formulary as long as the



drug is Medically Necessary, the prescription is filled at a Molina network pharmacy, the prescription is being used for a medically accepted indication (i.e., either FDA approved or compendia supported for the diagnosis for which it is being used), and other plan rules are followed.

Formularies may be different depending on the Molina plan and will change over time. Current formularies for all products may be downloaded from our website at [MolinaHealthcare.com](https://www.molinahealthcare.com).

2. **Copayments for Part D**—The amount a patient pays depends on which drug tier the drug is in under the plan and whether the patient fills the prescription at a preferred network pharmacy.
  - Most Part D services have a copayment.
  - Copayments cannot be waived by Molina per CMS.
  - Copayments for Molina may differ by state and plan.
3. **Restrictions on Molina’s Medicare Drug Coverage**—Some covered drugs may have additional requirements or limits on coverage. These requirements and limits may include:
  - **Prior Authorization:** Molina requires Prior Authorization for certain drugs, some of which are on the formulary and some of which are not on the formulary. Without prior approval, Molina may not cover the drug.
  - **Quantity Limits:** For certain drugs, Molina limits the amount of the drug that it will cover.
  - **Step Therapy:** In some cases, Molina requires patients to first try certain drugs to treat a medical condition before it will cover another drug for that condition. For example, if Drug A and Drug B both treat a medical condition, Molina may not cover Drug B unless Drug A is tried first.
  - **Part B Medications:** Certain medications and/or dosage forms listed in this formulary may be available on Medicare Part B coverage depending upon the place of service and method of administration. Newly FDA-approved drugs are considered non-formulary and subject to non-formulary policies and other non-formulary utilization criteria until a coverage decision is rendered by the Molina Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee.
4. **Non-Covered Molina Medicare Part D Drugs**—The following are **not** covered under Part D:
  - Agents when used for anorexia, weight loss, or weight gain (no mention of Medically Necessary).
  - Agents when used to promote fertility.
  - Agents used for cosmetic purposes or hair growth.

- Agents used for symptomatic relief of cough or colds.
  - Prescription vitamins and minerals, except those used for prenatal care and fluoride preparations.
  - Non-prescription drugs, except those medications listed as part of Molina’s Medicare over-the-counter (OTC) monthly benefit as applicable and depending on the plan.
  - Outpatient drugs for which the manufacturer seeks to require that associated tests or monitoring services be purchased exclusively from the manufacturer or its designee as a condition of sale.
  - Molina Members with Medicaid coverage may have a limited selection of these excluded medications as part of its Medicaid coverage for Members assigned to Molina Medicaid.
  - Prescriptions that are not being used for a medically accepted indication (i.e., prescriptions must either be FDA-approved, or compendia supported for the diagnosis for which they are being used; the Medicare-approved compendia are American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information (AHFS) and DRUGDEX® Information System).
5. **Possible differences between the Medicare and Medicaid Formularies—**  
The Molina Formulary includes many injectable drugs not typically found in its Medicaid formularies, such as those for the aged, blind, and disabled.
  6. **Requesting a Molina Medicare Formulary Exception—**Molina Medicare product drug Prior Authorizations are called Exceptions, which are required when your patient needs a drug that is not on the Formulary. A Member, a Member’s appointed representative, or a Member’s prescribing Provider are permitted to file an Exception. (The process for filing an Exception is predominantly a fax-based system.) The form for Exception requests is available on the Molina website.
  7. **Requesting a Molina Medicare Formulary Redetermination (Appeal)—**  
The appeal process involves an adverse determination regarding Molina issuing a denial for a requested drug or claim payment. If the Member received a Notice of Denial of Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage and disagrees with the decision rendered, they may request a redetermination (appeal) from Molina by completing the appeal form sent with the Notice of Denial.  
  
A Member, a Member’s appointed representative, or a Member’s prescribing Provider (for expedited appeals) may complete the appeal form and submit any information that may help Molina with the processing of the appeal. An appeal must be submitted in writing and filed within 60 calendar days from the date that the determination was rendered.

- A standard appeal may be submitted to Molina in writing. The appeal will be reviewed upon receipt, and the Member will be notified in writing within seven calendar days from the date the request for redetermination is received.
- An expedited appeal can be requested by the Member or by a Provider acting on behalf of the Member in writing or can be taken over the phone. An expedited appeal may be requested in situations where applying the standard time frame could seriously jeopardize the Member's life, health, or ability to regain maximum function. If a Provider supports the request for an expedited appeal, Molina will honor this request.
- If a Member submits an appeal without Provider support, Molina will review the request to determine if it meets Medicare's criteria for expedited processing. If the plan determines that the request meets the expedited criteria, Molina will render a decision as expeditiously as the Member's health requires, but not exceeding 72 hours. If the request does not meet the expedited criteria, Molina will render a coverage decision within the standard redetermination time frame of seven calendar days.
- To submit a verbal request, please call **(800) 665-3086**. Written appeals must be mailed or faxed to **(866) 290-1309**.

8. **Initiating a Part D Coverage Determination Request**—Molina will accept requests from Providers or a Member's appointed representative on the behalf of the Member either by a written or verbal request. The request may be communicated through the standardized Molina Medication Prior Authorization Request Form or via fax and telephone. All requests will be determined, and an approval or denial decision will be communicated to the Member and the Member's prescribing Provider within 72 hours/three calendar days after Molina receives the completed request.

Molina will request submission of additional information if a request is deemed incomplete for a determination decision. All requests may be approved by 1) Molina Pharmacy Technician under the supervision of a pharmacist, 2) Molina Pharmacist, or 3) Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of Molina. Review criteria will be made available at the request of the Member or their prescribing Provider.

Molina will determine whether a specific off-label use is a medically accepted indication based on the following criteria:

- a. A prescription drug is a Part D drug only if it is for a medically accepted indication, which is supported by one or more citations included or approved for inclusion with the following compendia:

- American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information.
  - DRUGDEX Information System.
- b. Requests for off-label use of medications must be accompanied with excerpts from one of the two CMS-required compendia for consideration. The submitted excerpts must cite a favorable recommendation.
  - c. Depending upon the prescribed medication, Molina may request the prescribing Provider to document and justify off-label use in clinical records and provide information such as diagnostic reports, chart notes, and medical summaries.

Denial decisions are only given to the Member or Member's representative by a Pharmacist or CMO of Molina. The written denial notice to the Member (and the prescriber involved) includes the specific rationale for denial, the explanation of both the standard and expedited appeals process, and an explanation of a Member's right to, and conditions for, obtaining an expedited appeals process.

If Molina denies coverage of the prescribed medication, Molina will give the Member a written notice within 72 hours explaining the reason for the denial and how to initiate the appeals process. If no written notice is given to the Member within the specified time frame, Molina will start the next level of appeal by sending the Coverage Determination Request to the IRE within 24 hours.

If a coverage determination is expedited, Molina will notify the Member of the coverage determination decision within the 24-hour time frame by telephone and will mail the Member a written Expedited Coverage Determination within three calendar days of the oral notification. If Molina does not give the Member a written notification within the specified time frame, Molina will start the next level of appeal by sending the Coverage Determination Request to IRE within 24 hours.

9. **Initiating a Part D Appeal**—If Molina's initial coverage determination is unfavorable, a Member may request a first level of appeal, or redetermination, within 60 calendar days from the date of the notice of the coverage determination. In a Standard Appeal, Molina has up to seven days to make the redetermination, whether favorable or adverse, and notify the Member in writing within seven calendar days from the date the request for redetermination is received. Members or a Member's prescribing Provider may request Molina to expedite a redetermination if the standard appeal time frame of seven days may seriously jeopardize the Member's life, health, or ability to regain maximum function. Molina has up to 72 hours to make the redetermination, whether favorable or

adverse, and notify the Member in writing within 72 hours after receiving the request for redetermination. If additional information is needed for Molina to make a redetermination, Molina will request the necessary information within 24 hours of the initial request for an expedited redetermination. Molina will inform the Member and prescribing Provider of the conditions for submitting the evidence, since the time frame is limited on expedited cases.

10. **The Part D Independent Review Entity (IRE)** – If the redetermination is unfavorable, a Member may request reconsideration by the IRE. The Part D Qualified Independent Contractor is currently MAXIMUS Federal, a CMS contractor that provides second-level appeals.
- **Standard Appeal:** The IRE has up to seven days to make the decision.
  - **Expedited Appeal:** The IRE has up to 72 hours to make the decision.
  - **Administrative Law Judge (ALJ):** If the IRE’s reconsideration is unfavorable, a Member may request a hearing with an ALJ if the amount in controversy requirement is satisfied. **Note:** Regulatory time frame is not applicable on this level of appeal.
  - **Medicare Appeals Council (MAC):** If the ALJ’s finding is unfavorable, the Member may appeal to the MAC, an entity within the Department of Health and Human Services that reviews ALJ’s decisions. **Note:** Regulatory time frame is not applicable on this level of appeal.
  - **Federal District Court (FDC):** If the MAC’s decision is unfavorable, the Member may appeal to an FDC if the amount in controversy requirement is satisfied. **Note:** Regulatory time frame is not applicable on this level of appeal.

## Pain Safety Initiative (PSI) Resources

Safe and appropriate opioid prescribing and utilization is a priority for all of us in health care. Molina requires Providers to adhere to Molina’s drug formularies and prescription policies designed to prevent abuse or misuse of high-risk chronic pain medication. Providers are expected to offer additional education and support to Members regarding opioid and pain safety as needed.

Molina is dedicated to ensuring Providers are equipped with additional resources, which can be found on the Molina Provider website. Providers may access additional opioid-safety and Substance-Use Disorder (SUD) resources at [MolinaHealthcare.com](https://www.molinahealthcare.com) under the Health Resource tab. Please consult with your Provider Network Manager or reference the Medication Formulary for more information on Molina’s Pain Safety Initiatives.