Apple Health (Medicaid) prior authorization requirements - COVID-19 related

The Health Care Authority (HCA) recognizes the critical need to maintain swift decision making for patient transfers and discharges. Nothing should get in the way of patient flow as we all work to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

Apple Health fee-for-service (FFS) program

Any service requiring authorization prior to discharge:

- Any service requiring prior authorization (PA) that is ***emergently provided due to COVID-19*** may be submitted for retro-review and authorization.
- Billing information: For claims to be paid without PA in the above instances, include the 'CR' modifier to designate that the requested items or services are related to the COVID-19 response.
- Use this billing methodology as needed when facilitating patient discharge/transfer to maintain capacity for the COVID-19 response.

COVID-19 Imaging Services

- There are no PA requirements for COVID-19 related chest imaging such as chest CTs and x-rays in the outpatient, emergency department (ED) or inpatient settings.

Medical Supplies/Durable Medical Equipment (DME)

- Urgent requests: if PA is inhibiting a patient from being discharged, please email the [FFS DME mailbox](.)
  - Due to the current state of emergency, this mailbox will be monitored evenings and weekends.
- For proof of delivery: no signature will be required by the client or client's representative when a delivery is received. However the person delivering the supplies should document the date and time of delivery for the vendor's records.