

PROVIDER ALERT
Staggering of PRP Authorizations
May 17, 2021

Target Audience: PRP Providers Only

Optum Maryland developed a process to reduce the impact of system reactivation which occurred in July 2020, resulting in a large volume of concurrent authorizations in July 2020 and January 2021 that will all become due for renewal at the same time. This high volume “cluster” creates some barriers for providers to have to manage their concurrent authorization requests in bulk.

Providers will have the option to stagger concurrent PRP authorization requests in order to spread out participants’ renewals over a 4-month period. New authorization plans will be available within Incedo on May 17, 2021, which will allow authorization of an additional 1 month, 2 months, or 3 months.

NOTE: RRP and other levels of care outside of PRP are not eligible for the staggered authorizations.

This is being offered to support providers to decrease this intense volume but is not mandatory.

These authorization plans may only be used one time per participant and are only available for concurrent PRP authorizations that would be due for reauthorization on July 1, 2021. The options will only be available in Incedo until July 20, 2021.

Options	Auth Plan Duration	Auth Plan	Renewal
No Extension	6 months	Current Auth Plan and normal workflow	January 1, 2022
Extend 1 Month	1 month	Extend PRP 1 unit U2/U3/0911	August 1, 2021
Extend 2 Months	2 months	Extend PRP 2 units U2/U3/0911	September 1, 2021
Extend 3 Months	3 months	Extend PRP 3 units U2/U3/0911	October 1, 2021

To reduce this authorization cluster, providers should have a maximum of thirty percent of their July authorizations moved to each of the extension categories.

- If the requested start date is not entered as “July 1, 2021”, Optum will revert the start date to July 1, 2021.
- If multiple PRP extension requests are submitted for the same participant, Optum will honor the first submitted request and deny any additional extension requests.
 - E.g., if a provider moves a participant’s authorization to the “Extend 1 Month” authorization plan and later enters another request to extend by 2 months, then only their first request will be honored.

Scenarios for Concurrent Authorization plan for a participant whose authorization terminates on 6/30/2021:

Example 1: Add one Unit

- Provider selects the **Extend PRP 1 Unit (U2/U3/0911) authorization plan**.
- This will provide an additional authorization for 1 unit/ 1 month through July 31, 2021.
- No clinical or DLA-20 will be required for this request. However, authorization renewal with clinical and DLA-20 will be required for the next request with a start date of August 1, 2021.

Example 2: Add two units

- Provider adds two units by selecting the **Extend PRP 2 Units (U2/U3/0911) authorization plan**.
- This will provide an additional authorization for 2 units/ 2 months through August 31, 2021.
- No clinical or DLA-20 will be required for this request. However, authorization renewal with clinical and DLA-20 will be required for the next request with a start date of September 1, 2021.

Example 3: Add three units

- Provider adds three units by selecting the **Extend PRP 3 Unit (U2/U3/0911) authorization plan**.
- This will provide an additional authorization for 3 units/ 3 months through September 30, 2021.
- No clinical or DLA-20 will be required for this request. However, authorization renewal with clinical and DLA-20 will be required for the next request with a start date of October 1, 2021.

Please note: All requirements and standards apply for any additional concurrent authorization requests, or for July 1, 2021, if not requesting an extension. These authorization requests will require clinical and DLA-20; the DLA-20 must be completed within 30 days prior to the requested start date.

Further information about these requirements can be found [here](#).

We caution providers that if you choose to stagger your authorizations, any deviation from the process outlined above could result in claim retractions.

Optum Maryland will include a facilitator-led provider webinar on the June 2021 training schedule to offer guidance on these authorization plans. This training schedule will be posted to the [Optum Maryland website](#) and communicated via Provider Alert at the beginning of June.

If you have questions about the information in this alert, please contact Optum Maryland Customer Services at 1-800-888-1965.

Thank you,

Optum Maryland Team