



PROVIDER ALERT

Authorization Requests for ECT Services

November 20, 2020

Optum Maryland would like to advise providers of changes in the process for requesting authorization for electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) for both Inpatient and Outpatient ECT. These changes are being implemented to simplify the process for providers offering ECT to participants in Inpatient psychiatric treatment. Prior to these changes, providers of Inpatient ECT have had to complete a full authorization request for ECT separate from their authorization request for Inpatient in order to get the physicians providing the ECT authorized, and in turn paid. Effective December 1, revenue code 0901 will be available on both the inpatient authorization plans and the OP ECT plan. When the provider obtains authorization for revenue code 0901, they will not need to request a separate authorization for 90870 to pay.

The instructions for requesting authorization for Inpatient and Outpatient ECT after December 1, 2020 are provided below.

Inpatient ECT:

Inpatient ECT must be requested as part of the MH-Inpatient Acute-Initial or MH-Inpatient Acute-Concurrent authorization plans. As shown below, in addition to the revenue code 0124 for the associated Inpatient MH treatment, the revenue code 0901 will show under these authorization plans. To request authorization for ECT, providers check off both revenue codes and include the rationale for ECT when completing the MH-Higher Level of Care form.

Check off **Services** that you want to include in this request:

Service	Proc/HCPCS/Rev Code
<input type="checkbox"/> MH - ECT (No Auth) - 0901-ECT Facility	0901
<input type="checkbox"/> MH - Inpatient Services - 0124-Psychiatro/semi	0124

Outpatient ECT:

Outpatient ECT can only be rendered in a facility (provider type 01, 06, or 07) and therefore, requests for outpatient ECT authorizations can be requested only by those

provider types. OP ECT authorizations will still be obtained using the ECT-Initial and ECT-Outpatient Concurrent authorization plans and the same clinical forms, ECT-Outpatient-Initial Request or ECT-Outpatient-Concurrent, will need to be completed. The only change is that providers will now see the Revenue Code 0901 rather than the CPT code 90870. As noted, above, once authorization for the 0901 code is obtained, 90870 will be paid without additional authorization.

If you have questions about the information in this alert, please contact customer services at 1-800-888-1965.

Thank you,

Optum Maryland Team