



# Outpatient Request Authorization IVR Caller Guide

Hours of Availability: Monday – Friday 6:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. (CT); Saturday 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. (CT); Sunday – Closed

- Utilize your keypad when possible
- Avoid using cell phones
- Minimize background noise
- Mute your phone when you are not speaking

This caller guide does not apply to Medicare Advantage or Illinois Medicaid.

## 1) Getting Started



Welcome to the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois Medical Management Department. If you're a health care provider, say "provider." If you're a member, say "member."

*Interruption Permitted*

**Providers**  
Member

**Press 1**  
**Press 2**

**Note:** You can use your touch tone keypad to enter numeric information.

## 2) Authorization and Referral Management



For benefit, say "benefits." For outpatient services or high-tech imaging, say "outpatient." For pre-certification of inpatient admissions or home health, say "pre-certification." For the special beginnings program for expectant mothers, say "maternity."

*Interruption Permitted*

Benefits  
**Outpatient**  
Pre-certification of Inpatient or Home Health  
Maternity

**Press 1**  
**Press 2**  
**Press 3**  
**Press 4**



Certification does not guarantee that the care and services the subscriber receives are eligible at time of admission or procedure. It only assures the proposed treatment meets the plan guidelines for medical necessity. If you anticipate that the patient's length of stay will exceed the certified days or need for continued services, please call us back. Is the patient a federal employee or dependent?

*Interruption Permitted*

Federal Employee or Dependent  
**Non-Federal Employee or Dependent**

**Press 1**  
**Press 2**

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Preauthorization is required for certain services. A preauthorization determines medical necessity and the appropriateness of treatment. A predetermination may be used to obtain a benefit assessment but is not required. Predeterminations must be submitted in writing. A submission form is located on our website.

*Interruption Permitted*

To continue your preauthorization request, please continue to hold.

**Note:** To submit your request online refer to the [BlueApprovR<sup>SM</sup>](#) or [Availity<sup>®</sup> Essentials Attachments: Recommended Clinical Review Requests](#) pages. If faxing supporting medical documentation for a previously submitted request, please include the request number.



If the member has Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois coverage press 1. If Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma coverage press 2. If Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas coverage, press 3. If Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Mexico coverage, press 4. If Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana coverage, press 5.

*Interruption Permitted*

BCBSIL	Press 1
BCBSOK	Press 2
BCBSTX	Press 3
BCBSNM	Press 4
BCBSMT	Press 5



Provider services line. Okay. What is your 10-digit rendering NPI or HMO site number?

**Situational:**

*If the system does not recognize the NPI, you will be prompted for a Tax ID.*

*Interruption Permitted*

Say or enter your NPI or 3-digit HMO site number.



And you are calling for outpatient preauthorization, is that correct?

*Interruption Permitted*

Yes	Press 1
No	Press 2



Okay. Authorization and referral management. Excluding the three-character prefix, what's the subscriber ID?

**Situational:**

*If multiple policies are found for your patient, you will be asked to provide their group number.*

*Interruption Permitted*

Say or enter only the subscriber ID, excluding the three-character prefix.

**Note:** Alpha and numeric characters may be entered by touch tone keypad. The Alpha Touch Tone reference guide is available on [page seven](#) for assistance with keying alpha characters.

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Is this for medical, behavioral health or chemical dependency service?

*Interruption Permitted*

Medical	Press 1
Behavioral Health	Press 2
Chemical Dependency	Press 3



Do you need to check procedure code requirements, request authorization and referral, or check the status?

*Interruption Permitted*

Check Procedure Code Requirements	Press 1
<b>Request Authorization and Referral</b>	<b>Press 2</b>
Check the Status	Press 3



Many outpatient services do not require authorization. Let's first determine if authorization is required for your outpatient service. Please tell me, what's the patient's date of birth?

*Interruption Permitted*

The date of birth format is mm/dd/yyyy.



Thanks. Next, what is the place of treatment, outpatient, office, or home?

*Interruption Permitted*

Outpatient	Press 1
Office	Press 2
Home	Press 3

**Procedure Code Authorization Quote**

At this time, the system will quote authorization requirements based on the code(s) entered. These preauthorization requirements have been saved to a file; your confirmation number is.....



Would you like for me to fax these preauthorization requirements to you?

*Interruption Permitted*

Yes	Press 1
No	Press 2



To get preauthorization requirements, we'll need the procedure code. Please say or enter a CPT or HCPCS procedure code. If there are any letters, please say it like this, "letter A 2 3 4 5."

Okay. Say or enter the next CPT or HCPCS procedure code or say, "that's it." I can collect up to 5.

If you do not have a procedure code, say, "I don't have one."

*Interruption Permitted*

Say or enter the procedure code(s) or say, "I don't have one."

*Note: If you do not have a procedure code, the IVR will quote general authorization requirements based on the benefit category instead.*

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**When authorization is NOT required by BCBSIL:**

If you have all the information you need, you can go ahead and hang up. Otherwise, we'll go back to the main menu.

End call or return to the main menu.

*Interruption Permitted*



**When authorization IS required by BCBSIL:**

Would you like to create the preauthorization request?

Yes  
No

Press 1  
Press 2

You can press pound to skip these instructions. To process this request, I'll need some information including the NPIs for the attending provider as well as for the facility. I'll also need the diagnosis code and any applicable procedure codes. If you're ready to continue, say "I'm ready." You can also say "I need more time" or to hear this again, say "repeat that."

Voice option must be used here.  
Touch tone is not an available option.

*Interruption Permitted*

*Note: Press the pound key (#) to skip these instructions.*



Next, say or enter the NPI of the rendering provider, or say "it's the same as my NPI."

**Situational:**

If the system does not recognize the NPI, you will be prompted additional identifiers (i.e., address, zip code, etc.).

Touch tone and voice options are both available.

*Interruption Permitted*



**Situational:**

If you choose outpatient place of treatment:

Now, which is the treatment setting?  
Hospital, ambulance or surgical center.

Hospital  
Ambulance  
Surgical Center

Press 1  
Press 2  
Press 3

*Interruption Permitted*

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 **Treatment Type Options**

Which is the treatment type?

**Situational:** Options are based on the place of treatment previously entered.

**Outpatient**

- Medical Care
- Surgical
- Transplants
- MRI/CAT Scan
- Therapy

**Office**

- Medical Care
- Surgical
- Chiropractic

**Home**

- Home Health
- Hospice
- Private Duty Nursing
- Skilled Nursing
- DME
- Therapy

**Note:** Therapy includes Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapies.



Now, say or enter a CPT or HCPCS procedure code. If the procedure code contains any letters, please say it like this "letter A 2 3 4 5."

*Interruption Permitted*

Say or enter the procedure code.



How many visits?

*Interruption Permitted*

Say or enter the number of visits.



What's the start date for this service? For example, December tenth, twenty twenty-four. You can also say "today."

*Interruption Permitted*

The start date format is mm/dd/yyyy.



What's the end date?

*Interruption Permitted*

The end date format is mm/dd/yyyy.



Okay. Say or enter the next CPT or HCPCS procedure code or say, "that's it."

*Interruption Permitted*

Say or enter the next procedure code or say, "that's it."



Since this outpatient stay ends on or after October 1, 2015, this request needs to be processed using an ICD-10 diagnosis code. Please tell me the ICD-10 diagnosis code or say "one moment" if you need time to find it.

*Interruption Permitted*

Say or enter the ICD-10 diagnosis code.

**Note:** Diagnosis codes can be up to six digits. When entering a diagnosis code using your touch tone keypad, press the star key (\*) to enter the decimal point. If utilizing the voice option, say "dot."

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Okay. To review the information, say "review." Or to submit this request without verifying, say "submit." You can also say "cancel request."

*Interruption Permitted*

**Review Information**

Submit  
Cancel Request

**Press 1**

Press 2

Press 3

**Note:** Upload and attached medical documentation online via [Availity's Authorizations](#).



Sure. To confirm, this request is for...  
*see example*

Is this all, correct? Say "yes", "no" or "repeat that."

*Interruption Permitted*

**Yes**

No

Repeat That

**Press 1**

Press 2

Press 3

**Example:** "John Smith. The facility is Smith Hospital. The attending provider is Jane Doe. For diagnosis code 123.45. The treatment type is Therapy. The treatment setting is outpatient, and this is an elective treatment. The service code is 99999. For CPT 99999, 2 days are requested starting September 13<sup>st</sup>, 2024."



Okay. To submit this request, say "submit." If you need to cancel this request, press 2.

*Interruption Permitted*

**Say Submit or press 2 to cancel request.**

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## Alpha Touch-Tone Reference

Alpha touch-tone is available as an alternative to voicing alpha-numeric mixed information.

To enter a **subscriber ID**, **group** or **claim number** containing alpha character(s):

- 1) Press the star key (\*) to begin a letter sequence
- 2) Press the number key containing the desired letter (e.g., press 2 for A, B or C)
- 3) Press 1, 2, 3 or 4 to indicate the position the letter is listed on the selected key (e.g., press \*21 to enter A)

A	=	*21
B	=	*22
C	=	*23
<hr/>		
D	=	*31
E	=	*32
F	=	*33
<hr/>		
G	=	*41
H	=	*42
I	=	*43
<hr/>		
J	=	*51
K	=	*52
L	=	*53
<hr/>		
M	=	*61
N	=	*62
O	=	*63
<hr/>		
P	=	*71
Q	=	*72
R	=	*73
S	=	*74
<hr/>		
T	=	*81
U	=	*82
V	=	*83
<hr/>		
W	=	*91
X	=	*92
Y	=	*93
Z	=	*94

### Group Number

	Y	N	1	2	3	4
Ex. 1						
	*93	*62	1	2	3	4
Press						
Ex. 2	1	2	K	3	4	5
Press	1	2	*52	3	4	5

### Subscriber ID

Ex. 1	A	1	N	2	3	4	5	6	7
Press	*21	1	*62	2	3	4	5	6	7
Ex. 2	0	9	2	T	7	6	8		
Press	0	9	2	*81	7	6	8		

**Note:** Exclude three-character prefix when entering the subscriber ID.

### Claim Number

Ex. 1	2	1	3	4	F	5	6	7	0	X
Press	2	1	3	4	*33	5	6	7	0	*92
Ex. 2	2	0	1	T	8	7	6	5	0	C
Press	2	0	1	*81	8	7	6	5	0	*23

**Note:** The claim number should be 13 digits.

Have questions or need additional education? Email our [Provider Education Consultants](#).

Be sure to include your name, direct contact information and Tax ID or Billing NPI.

Checking eligibility and/or benefit information and/or obtaining prior authorization is not a guarantee of payment. Benefits will be determined once a claim is received and will be based upon, among other things, the member's eligibility and the terms of the member's certificate of coverage, including, but not limited to, exclusions and limitations applicable on the date services were rendered. **Certain employer groups may require prior authorization or pre-notification through other vendors. If you have any questions, call the number on the member's ID card.** Regardless of any prior authorization or benefit determination, the final decision regarding any treatment or service is between the patient and the health care provider.

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