

# IHCP *bulletin*



INDIANA HEALTH COVERAGE PROGRAMS    BT202178    SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

## ***IHCP COVID-19 Response: IHCP temporarily revises time frames for certain PA approvals***

Due to a rise in coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) cases, increased demands are straining hospital systems throughout the state. On Sept. 1, 2021, Governor Holcomb issued [Executive Order 21-24](#) (EO 21-24), which directed licensed hospitals to ensure sufficient capacity and staffing, and if necessary, reprioritize or postpone nonemergent surgeries or procedures.



To support hospitals, providers and members whose surgeries or procedures have been delayed or postponed, the Indiana Health Coverage Programs (IHCP) is instituting temporary changes to extend time frames for certain prior authorization (PA) approvals. This policy change includes Traditional Medicaid (fee-for-service) as well as all managed care benefit programs.

Effective Sept. 1, 2021, existing prior authorizations with an authorized date range including Sept. 1, 2021, will be extended. Existing PA time frames for open and approved authorizations will automatically be extended for 180 days from the expiration date of the PA. This extension applies only to existing PAs for nonemergent surgeries or procedures postponed to ensure sufficient COVID-19 response capabilities. Updated authorizations will be reflected in the IHCP Provider Healthcare Portal and the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system.

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