

**Notification from the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF):  
PARs Pause Extended Until March 2024 for Series of Services and Therapies**

In January, the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (the Department) temporarily paused prior authorizations request (PAR) requirements for a series of pediatric long-term home health services and home health therapies until June 1, 2022.

Those included PARs for pediatric long-term home health Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) services, and home health physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech language pathology therapy services.

Effective Feb. 28, 2022, the pause on the requirement to submit a PAR will extend until at least March 2024 and will now include:

Pediatric long-term home health CNA services

Pediatric long-term home health therapies: occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech-language pathology therapy

Pediatric long-term home health intermittent skilled nursing

The two-year pause allows the Department and partners time to robustly engage with stakeholders, train providers on operational changes, evaluate benefit policy, and notify Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program) members before the pause is lifted. This also gives the Department time to ensure full compliance with federal and state policy while keeping Health First Colorado members and their needs front and center.

The Department is now collaborating with our utilization management vendor, Kepro, to implement operational changes supporting the extended pause. We will communicate and issue policy changes to Health First Colorado members, providers and other stakeholders over the coming days. The Department appreciates the engagement from Health First Colorado providers and members while we work on this important process during the next two years.

Read more in this article from the Colorado

Sun: <https://coloradosun.com/.../medicaid-claims-children.../>

