

Authorizations for Non-VA Care

SCENARIOS

SCENARIO: A Veteran goes to a specialist to understand the cause of his migraines. During the visit, the doctor recognizes the need for additional testing related to neck pain, which was not in the original authorization.

ACTION: Because the tests were not covered in the original authorization, the doctor's office must call the referring VA Medical Center to get a **second authorization** for the tests.

SCENARIO: A Veteran is receiving authorized physical therapy for knee pain. The physical therapist would like to conduct additional therapy to address the pain.

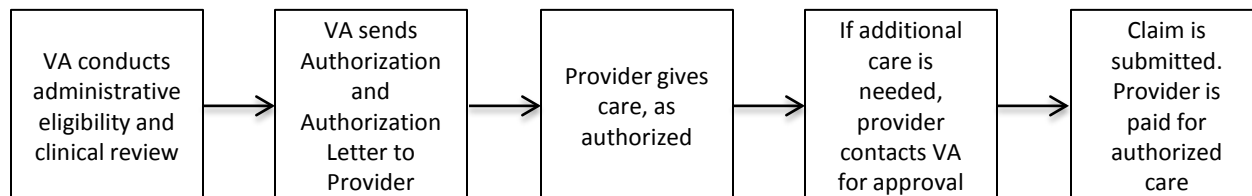
ACTION: Because the additional services are related to the same episode of care, the physical therapist must call the referring VA Medical Center and request **an extension** of the current authorization.

As a community-based provider, you are an important part of the care the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides to our nation's Veterans. Before you provide care to a Veteran, please ensure you have an authorization, or formal approval for specified care. By Federal regulation VA is the primary and exclusive payer for medical care it authorizes. As such, you may not bill the Veteran or any other party for any portion of the care authorized by VA. Federal law also prohibits payment by more than one federal agency for the same episode of care; subsequently any payments made by the Veteran, Medicare, or any other Federal agency must be refunded to the payer by your facility.

The authorization:

- ✓ Is called a 10-7078 form (inpatient) or 10-7079 form (outpatient)
- ✓ Is accompanied by an Authorization letter which identifies dates and types of services authorized in a user-friendly format
- ✓ Gives you the authority to provide healthcare to the Veteran patient
- ✓ Provides assurance of payment for those services
- ✓ Binds VA to the specific language on the authorization

The process:



Tips:

- ✓ You will only be paid for care that is authorized by VA, so be sure to read the 10-7078 or 10-7079 form carefully and call VA before providing additional services
- ✓ Authorizations for care related to the same type or episode of care can be extended. New episodes of care will require a new authorization
- ✓ If you didn't receive a copy of the authorization from the Veteran, contact your local VAMC for a copy
- ✓ VA will not be responsible for payment on any follow-up appointments, diagnostic testing, or procedures that have not been pre-approved. The patient will be responsible for payment
- ✓ The Veteran is responsible for payment of any no-show appointments. Charges incurred cannot be paid for by VA

<http://www.nonvacare.va.gov/>



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