



SummaCare
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RE: Procedure/Surgery Prior Authorizations

SummaCare Providers,

As healthcare evolves, an increasing number of services are successfully being performed in the outpatient setting. The experience of SummaCare members during the pandemic also demonstrates strong clinical outcomes in the outpatient arena and has had a positive overall effect on patient experience.

This transition to outpatient services has been noted by CMS, who announced the plan to retire the "Inpatient Only" (IPO) list over the next two years. Recent research has shown that patients can potentially benefit from exposure to other individuals in the hospital setting. Additionally, some patients prefer to be discharged the same day whenever possible, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In alignment with industry standards, beginning March 1, 2021 (unless previously notified of an earlier start date), SummaCare will review and authorize appropriate surgery requests as outpatient. For SummaCare Medicare Advantage members, the only exception will include those procedures which remain on the CMS "Inpatient Only" (IPO) list. When appropriate, requests for an inpatient level of care may be submitted post-operatively with accompanying clinical information.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership as we work together to ensure that all SummaCare members receive the highest quality healthcare. Please direct any questions to the SummaCare Provider Services Department at 800.996.8401.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Zonfa, MD
Chief Medical Officer