



SummaCare
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summacare.com

February 15, 2022

SummaCare Memo: Change to Back Program Prior Authorization

Dear SummaCare Provider,

As part of SummaCare's ongoing improvement within our authorization requirements, the SummaCare team evaluated the current SummaCare Back Program. This program required prior authorization for a member referral to undergo a consultation with a spine surgeon, including orthopedic spine surgeons as well as neurosurgeons for the evaluation and treatment of low back pain. This requirement included the need to demonstrate that the member was treated medically by a physiatrist, sports medical professional, or similarly trained clinician before a referral to a spine surgeon for potential surgical intervention.

As part of that evaluation, as of 1/1/2022, SummaCare has made the decision to remove this prior authorization requirement. A SummaCare member can now see an in-network spinal surgeon or any other clinician within the orthopedic department without a prior authorization. This policy will also apply to evaluations of back pain by an in-network neurosurgeon.

By working closely with our provider network, we seek to streamline our process when appropriate to ensure all SummaCare members receive the highest quality of care with removal of unnecessary barriers to access.

If you have any questions, please contact Provider Support Services or your Provider Engagement Specialist at **330.996.8400** or **800.996.8401** or via email at **contactproviderservices@summacare.com**.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Zonfa, MD, FACOG
Chief Medical Officer