Southcoast Health

What is Prior Authorization?

- **Prior authorization** is when your insurance needs to approve your medication.
- Insurers may require it for:
 - o Certain diagnoses
 - Specific weight (BMI)
 - Other health conditions
- It happens after you visit your healthcare provider.

How Long Does Approval Take?

- We aim to process prior authorizations in 10-14 days.
- **Important**: Don't pick up your medication until you get approval!

I Got Approved! What's Next?

- If you receive an approval letter:
 - o Keep it safe and bring it to your next appointment.
 - o The letter has important dates.
- If you don't hear from us within 2 weeks, call or message your provider for an update.
- We will call you if we get the approval for you!

How Long Am I Approved For?

- When approved for weight loss injections, there's a time limit.
- You need to lose 5% of your starting weight to get reapproved.
- If it's a re-approval, you must maintain that 5% loss.
- Insurance needs a visit to check your weight and progress.

I Started My Medications But Need Another Prior Authorization. What Now?

- 1. Most insurances won't let you pick up prescriptions sooner than 28 days.
 - o If you try, the pharmacist may say you need a new prior authorization.
- 2. Your previous prior authorization might be **expired**.
 - o Insurers often approve for a limited time (usually 4-6 months or up to a year).
 - o Schedule an appointment for a new prior authorization.

I Received a Denial Letter. What Should I Do?

- **Keep the denial letter** and send it to your provider.
- We can appeal some denials to try and change the decision.
- If it's a plan exclusion, we can't appeal, but we can help find other covered medications.
- Please note appeals can take up to 30 days

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