

**To:** AmeriHealth Caritas North Carolina Providers  
**Date:** September 30, 2022  
**Subject:** **NC MEDICAID SPECIAL BULLETIN: NC Medicaid Temporary Flexibilities due to Hurricane Ian**

**NC Medicaid Temporary Flexibilities due to Hurricane Ian**

For more information, please see [Medicaid Special Bulletin](#) dated September 29, 2022

North Carolina Governor Cooper issued Executive Order 270 on Sept 28, 2022, which declared a state of emergency for North Carolina in anticipation of potential severe weather caused by the approach of Hurricane Ian. Flexibilities for both Medicaid Direct and Medicaid Managed Care include, but are not limited to:

**Reimbursement for medically necessary services:**

Medicaid Direct and Medicaid Managed Care will reimburse providers for medically necessary drugs and services, and equipment and supplies, provided during the Hurricane Ian emergency without prior approval (PA) starting Sept. 29 through the end of the state of emergency. ***Medical documentation must support medical necessity.***

**Nursing Home Admissions:**

Medicaid Direct and Medicaid Managed Care will allow for expedited nursing home admissions for individuals displaced by Hurricane Ian starting Sept. 29 through the end of the state of emergency. For Medicaid Managed Care, providers should contact the ACNC provider service line at **1-888-738-0004 (TTY: 1-866-209-6421)** to confirm if additional documentation or process need to be completed to allow for expedited admissions.

Lastly, the Medicare requirement of 3-day qualifying hospital stay is waived for Medicaid Direct and Medicaid Managed Care beneficiaries who require a short-term stay in a Nursing Facility due to care needs or shelter needs related to Hurricane Ian for the period Sept. 29 through the end of the state of emergency.

**Temporary PASRR Procedures**

Medicaid Direct and Medicaid Managed Care will not require Level I and II Preadmission Screening and Resident Reviews (PASRRs) for new admissions for 30 days. Providers should contact the ACNC provider service line at **1-888-738-0004 (TTY: 1-866-209-6421)** to confirm if additional documentation or process need to be completed to individuals expected to remain in the nursing facility for more than 30 days.

**Medication Prior Approval Overrides**

NC Medicaid enrolled pharmacy providers have been approved to override prior approval requirements during the state of emergency. This override of prior approval is being allowed while the governor's state of emergency order remains in place to ensure that all Medicaid beneficiaries have access to necessary medications.

**Early Prescription Refills**

NC Medicaid enrolled pharmacy providers have been approved to early fill these prescriptions and will follow applicable co-pay requirements. Effective Sept. 29, 2022, the early refill is being allowed while the governor's state of emergency order remains in place to ensure that all Medicaid beneficiaries have access to necessary medications.

Providers should contact the AmeriHealth Caritas North Carolina Pharmacy Help Desk at **1-866-885-1406** to confirm if additional documentation or process need to be completed to allow for prior authorization overrides due to Hurricane Ian.

Please visit our [Provider home page](#) for any further storm-related updates.