

Provider Manual

Nevada

Marketplace |


CareSource[®]





This content has been reviewed; however, changes and/or revisions occur frequently. Providers should check the Provider Manual and Updates & Announcements pages on **CareSource.com** for the most up-to-date information.



Dear CareSource® Provider,

Thank you for your participation. CareSource values our relationships with our providers, and we are actively working to make it easier for you to deliver quality care to our members.

CareSource has provided plans in the Health Insurance Marketplace, Medicaid, Medicare and other managed health care services since 1989.

Members enrolled in our Marketplace plans pay the premiums and cost-sharing amounts (deductibles, coinsurance, copayments, etc.) that apply to their coverage based on plan selection and subsidy level. Our Marketplace plans help provide members with stability, peace of mind and affordable health care with heart – allowing members to select the plan which best meets their needs.

This manual is a resource for working with our health plan. The manual communicates policies and programs, as well as outlines key information such as claims submissions, reimbursement processes, authorizations, member benefits and more to make it more efficient for you to do business with us.

CareSource communicates updates to our provider network regularly at **CareSource.com** > Providers > Tools & Resources > [Updates & Announcements](#).

To support our providers, we have a dedicated Customer Care team to assist with questions and concerns. Additionally, an external team of specialists are available to provide onsite training and work with our providers in their communities.

We know great health care begins with you. Together, we can help attain better outcomes for our CareSource members.

Sincerely,





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ABOUT CARESOURCE

Welcome

Welcome, and thank you for participating with CareSource.

We work together to ensure that our members – your patients – can improve their health and well-being. Because you're our partner, we strive to make it simple for you to do business with us. This manual directs you to the solutions you need, whether that's through convenient online self-service solutions, fast prior authorizations or hassle-free claims payments. Our strong partnership allows us to work together to facilitate a high level of care and a respectful experience for our members.

We are a nonprofit, community-based health plan that currently serves Ohio, Georgia, Indiana, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, West Virginia and Wisconsin consumers who are enrolled in our Marketplace plans.

Our goal is to create an integrated medical home for our members. We focus on prevention and partnership with local providers to offer the services our members need to remain healthy.

As a managed health care organization, we improve the health of our members by utilizing a contracted network of high-quality participating providers. Primary care providers (PCPs) within the network provide a range of services to our members and can also coordinate patient care by referring them to specialists when needed, ensuring that members have timely access to health care services and receive all appropriate preventive services.

CareSource also distributes the member rights and responsibilities statements to the following groups upon their enrollment and annually thereafter:

- New members
- Existing members
- New providers
- Existing providers



About Us

CareSource was founded on the principles of quality and service delivered with compassion and a thorough understanding of caring for underserved consumers. As a nonprofit, we are mission-driven to provide quality care to our members. We offer process efficiencies and value-added benefits for our members and participating providers.

Vision and Mission

Our vision is transforming lives through innovative health and life services.

Our mission is to make a lasting difference in our members' lives by improving their health and well-being.

At CareSource, our mission is one we take to heart. In fact, we call our mission our “heartbeat.” It is the essence of our company, and our unwavering dedication is the hallmark of our success.

Our Services

- Provider relations
- Provider services
- Member eligibility/enrollment information
- Claims processing
- Credentialing/recredentialing
- Decision-support informatics
- Quality improvement
- Regulatory/compliance
- Special investigations for fraud, waste and abuse
- Member services, including a member call center with CareSource as well as our benefit managers:
 - Pharmacy: Express Scripts, Inc.
 - Vision: EyeMed
 - Hearing: TruHearing
 - Fitness: American Specialty Health

In addition to the functions above, our Care Management programs include the following:

- Low, medium and complex case management – a “no wrong door” referral intake
- Telephonic case management
- Disease management
- Preventive health and wellness assistance with focused health needs/risk assessment
- Emergency department diversion – high emergency department utilization focus (targeted at members with frequent utilization)
- 24-Hour Nurse Advice Line
- Maternal and child health



- Comprehensive prenatal, postpartum and family planning services
- Outreach programs in partnership with community agencies to target members at greatest risk for preterm birth or complications
- Behavioral health and substance use disorder (SUD)
- Collaboration with pharmacy and medication therapy management (MTM)

For more information on these programs, see the **“Member Support Services”** chapter on **page 49**.

The CareSource Foundation

The CareSource Foundation was launched in 2006 to add another component to our professional services: community response. Since its inception, the CareSource Foundation has responded at significant levels and made some great friends, including nonprofit organizations and other charitable funders who were equally committed to better health for all communities. We are addressing tough issues and growing together.

To date, the CareSource Foundation has awarded grants totaling over \$16.4 million. Grants focus on issues of the uninsured, critical trends in children’s health and special populations. Several large signature grants were made specifically to address issues of access to coverage in the new health care reform landscape and elevating children from the cycle of poverty through the power of education.

The CareSource Foundation believes in people, organizations and initiatives that actively work to improve the physical health and well-being of individuals residing in the CareSource service areas. We believe that passion, knowledge and vision generate positive, long-lasting change and that meaningful collaboration creates strong partnerships with grantees.

Compliance and Ethics

At CareSource, we serve a variety of audiences – members, providers, government regulators, community partners and each other. We serve them best by working together with honesty, respect and integrity. Our Corporate Compliance Plan, along with state and federal regulations, outline the personal, professional, ethical and legal standards we must all follow.

Our Corporate Compliance Plan is an affirmation of CareSource’s ongoing commitment to conduct business in a legal and ethical environment. It has been established to:

- Formalize CareSource’s commitment to honest communication within the company and within the community
- Develop and maintain a culture that promotes integrity and ethical behavior
- Facilitate compliance with all applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations
- Implement a system for early detection and reporting of noncompliance with laws, regulations or CareSource policy

This allows us to resolve problems promptly and minimize any negative impact on our members or business, such as financial losses, civil damages, penalties and criminal sanctions.

CareSource’s Corporate Compliance Plan is a formal company policy that outlines how everyone who represents CareSource should conduct themselves. This includes how we do our work and how we relate to each other in the workplace. It also includes the conduct of those we have business relationships with, such as providers, consultants and vendors.



General Compliance and Ethics Expectations of Providers

- Act according to the compliance standards
- Let us know about suspected violations or misconduct
- Let us know if you have questions

For questions about provider expectations, please call your Health Partner Engagement Specialist or Provider Services at **1-833-230-2101**.

If you suspect potential violations, misconduct or noncompliant conduct which impacts CareSource or our members, please leverage one of the following methods to communicate the issue to CareSource:

- Ethics and Compliance
- Online: **CareSource.ethicspoint.com**
- Hotline: **1-844-784-9583**
- Compliance Officer: **CorporateComplianceOfficer@CareSource.com**

Any issues submitted to the Ethics and Compliance Hotline may be submitted anonymously.

The CareSource Corporate Compliance Plan is posted for your reference on **CareSource.com** > About Us > Legal > [Corporate Compliance](#).

Please let us know if you have questions regarding the CareSource Corporate Compliance Plan. We appreciate your commitment to corporate compliance.

Personally Identifiable Information

In the day-to-day business of patient treatment, payment and health care operations, CareSource and its providers routinely handle large amounts of personally identifiable information (PII). In the face of increasing identity theft, there are various standards and industry best practices that guide that PII be appropriately protected wherever it is stored, processed and transferred in the course of conducting normal business. As a provider, you should be taking measures to secure your sensitive provider data, and you are mandated by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) to secure protected health information (PHI). There are many controls you should have in place to protect sensitive PII and PHI.

Here are a few important places to start:

- Utilize a secure message tool or service to protect data sent by email.
- Limit paper copies of PHI and PII left out in the open in your workspace and shred this content when it is no longer needed.
- Ensure conversations involving patient information cannot be overheard by others.
- Ensure all employees complete a HIPAA training program and understand the importance of safeguarding patient information.

There may be times when we share patient information with you or ask you to share with us. CareSource, like you, is a covered entity under HIPAA. It is permissible for covered entities to share patient information when necessary for treatment, payment or health care operations.



Member Consent

When you check eligibility on the [Provider Portal](#), you can also determine if a member has granted consent to share their health information with their past, current and future treating providers. A message displays on the Member Eligibility page if the member has not consented to sharing their health information.

Please encourage CareSource members who have not consented to complete our HIPAA Authorization Form so that all providers involved in their care can effectively coordinate their care. This form is located at **CareSource.com** > Provider > [Forms](#).

The HIPAA Authorization Form can also be used to designate a person to speak on the member's behalf. This designated representative can be a relative, a friend, a physician, an attorney or some other person that the member specifies.





COMMUNICATING WITH CARESOURCE

CareSource communicates with our provider network through a variety of channels, including phone, fax, Provider Portal, newsletters, **CareSource.com** and network notifications. We encourage you to reach out to your assigned Health Partner Engagement Specialist with any questions.

CareSource Hours of Operation

| Provider Services | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1-833-230-2101 | Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Pacific Time (PT) |

| Member Resources | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Member Services | 1-833-230-2099 | Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. PT |
| 24-Hour Nurse Advice Line | 1-833-687-7378 | 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year |

Representatives are available by telephone Monday through Friday, except on observed holidays.

Please visit **CareSource.com** > About Us > [Contact Us](#) for more information on the holiday hours.



Phone

Our interactive voice response (IVR) system will direct your call to the appropriate professional for assistance. We also provide telephone-based self-service applications that allow you to verify member eligibility.

| Nevada | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Provider Services | 1-833-230-2101 |
| Prior Authorizations | 1-833-230-2101 |
| Claim Inquiries | 1-833-230-2101 |
| Credentialing | 1-833-230-2101 |
| NICU | 1-833-230-2036 |
| Member Services | 1-833-230-2099 |
| 24-Hour Nurse Advice Line | 1-833-687-7378 |
| Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline | 1-844-415-1272 |
| TTY for the Hearing Impaired | 1-800-743-3333 or 711 |
| EyeMed Member Services | 1-833-337-3129 |
| TruHearing Member Services | 1-866-202-2561 |
| Active&Fit® Member Services | 1-877-771-2746 |

Fax

| Nevada | |
|---|--------------|
| Care Management Referral | 844-676-0364 |
| Credentialing | 866-573-0018 |
| Contract Implementation | 937-396-3632 |
| Fraud, Waste and Abuse | 800-418-0248 |
| Medical Prior Authorization | 844-676-0372 |
| NICU | 937-396-3499 |
| Pharmacy Prior Authorization | 866-930-0019 |
| Outpatient Drugs Covered Under Medical Benefit Prior Authorization Form | 888-399-0271 |
| Provider Appeals | 937-531-2398 |
| Provider Maintenance | 937-396-3076 |



Website

Accessing our website, **CareSource.com**, is quick and easy. On the Provider section of the site, you will find commonly used forms, newsletters, updates and announcements, our provider manual, claims, information, frequently asked questions, clinical guidelines, preventative guidelines and much more.

Provider Portal

URL: ProviderPortal.CareSource.com

Our secure online Provider Portal allows you instant access to valuable information at any time. You can access the CareSource Provider Portal at **CareSource.com** > Login > [Provider Portal](#). Simply enter your username and password (if you are already a registered user) or fill out your information to become a registered user. Assisting you is one of our top priorities in order to deliver better health outcomes for our members.

Provider Portal Benefits

- Easy access to a secure online (encrypted) tool with time-saving services and critical information
- Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- Accessible on any personal computer (PC) without any additional software

Provider Portal Tools

We encourage you to take advantage of the following time-saving tools:

- **Payment history** – Search for payments by check number or claim number.
- **Claims features**
 - **Submit claims** – Submit claims using online forms or upload a completed claim. Claim submission through the portal is available to traditional providers, community partners, delegates and health homes. For more information about submitting claims online, please visit the “**Claims Submissions**” chapter on **page 19**.
 - **Claim status** – Search for status of claims.
 - **Claims attachments** – Submit documentation needed for claims processing.
 - **Rejected claims** – Find claims that may have been rejected so that you can resubmit them.
- **Claim dispute and appeals** – Submit and search for claim appeals and disputes.
- **Coordination of benefits (COB)** – Confirm COB for patients.
- **Prior authorization** – Submit medical inpatient/outpatient, home health care and Synagis®.
- **Eligibility termination dates** – View the member’s termination date (if applicable) under the eligibility tab.
- **Benefit limits** – Track benefit limits electronically in real time before services are rendered for chiropractic, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy and more.
- **Care treatment plans** – Providers now have the option to view care treatment plans for their patients on our Provider Portal.
- **Clinical practice registry (CPR)** – Filter patient data to identify opportunities for preventive health screenings.



- **Recovery letters** – View and download letters.
- **Member profile** – Access a comprehensive view of patient medical/pharmacy utilization.
- **Member financial status and information** – View member payment responsibilities (such as deductible, copay and coinsurance) and monthly premium status.
- **Monthly membership lists** – View and download current monthly membership lists.
- **File grievance**

Mail

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| CareSource | CareSource P.O. Box 8738 Dayton, OH 45401-8738 |
| Provider Appeals | CareSource P.O. Box 8738 Dayton, OH 45401-8738 Please visit our website for more information on how appeals can be submitted online. |
| Member Appeals and Grievances | CareSource Marketplace Attn: NV Marketplace Member Appeals P.O. Box 1947 Dayton, OH 45401-1947 |
| Claims | CareSource P.O. Box 3607 Dayton, OH 45401-3607 |
| Fraud, Waste and Abuse | CareSource Attn: Program Integrity P.O. Box 1940 Dayton, OH 45401-1940 |
| Utilization Management | CareSource P.O. Box 1307 Dayton, OH 45401-1307 |

Please Note: Provider appeals can only be mailed if supporting documentation is above 100 MBs where the Provider Portal will not allow submission.

Information reported to us can be reported anonymously and is kept confidential to the extent permitted by law.



Provider Communications

Newsletters

Our provider newsletter contains operational updates, clinical articles and new initiatives underway at CareSource.

Network Notifications

Network notifications are published for CareSource providers to regularly communicate updates to policies and procedures. Network notifications are found on our website at **CareSource.com** > Providers > Tools & Resources > [Updates & Announcements](#).

Provider Demographic Changes and Updates

Advance written notice of status changes, such as a change in address, phone, or adding or deleting a physician to your practice helps us keep our records current. Your current information is critical for efficient claims processing.

Online

CareSource.com > Providers > [Provider Portal Log In](#)

Email

ProviderMaintenance@CareSource.com

Fax

937-396-3076

Mail

CareSource
Attn: Provider Maintenance
P.O. Box 8738
Dayton, OH 45401-8738



CREDENTIALING AND RECREDENTIALING

CareSource credentials and recredentials all licensed independent practitioners including physicians, facilities and non-physicians with whom it contracts and who fall within its scope of authority and action. Through credentialing, CareSource checks the qualifications and performance of physicians and other health care practitioners. Our Vice President/Senior Medical Director is responsible for the credentialing and recredentialing program.

Credentialing Process

Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare Application

CareSource is a participating organization with Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare (CAQH). Please make sure that we have access to your provider application prior to submitting your CAQH number.

1. Log onto the CAQH website at www.CAQH.org, utilizing your account information.
2. Select the Authorization tab and ensure CareSource is listed as an authorized health plan (if not, please check the Authorized box to add).

Please also include copies of the following documents:

- Malpractice insurance face sheet
- Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) certificate (current)
- Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) certificate (if applicable)
- Collaborative Agreement for Prescriptive Authority*

*For physician assistant (PA)/certified nurse practitioner (CNP)/clinical nurse specialist (CNS)/certified nurse midwife (CNM) providers only

It is essential that all documents are complete and current, or CareSource will discontinue the contracting and credentialing process.



Debarment and Criminal Conviction Attestation

CareSource verifies that its providers and the providers' employees have not been debarred or suspended by any state or federal agency. CareSource also requires that its providers and the providers' employees disclose any criminal convictions related to federal health care programs. "Provider employee" is defined as directors, officers, partners, managing employees or persons with beneficial ownership of more than five percent of the entity's equity.

Providers must offer a list that identifies all of the provider employees, as defined above, along with the employee's tax identification or social security numbers. Providers and their employees must execute the attestation titled "CareSource Debarment/Criminal Conviction Attestation" (in addition to being subject to and cooperating with CareSource verification activities) as a part of the credentialing and recredentialing process.

CareSource conducts credentialing and recredentialing activities based on the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) standards and the appropriate federal and individual state department of insurance requirements.

Provider Credentialing

In addition to contracted providers, we also credential the following:

- Providers who have an independent relationship with CareSource. This independent relationship is defined through contracting agreements between CareSource and a provider or group of providers and is defined when CareSource selects and directs its members to a specific practitioner or group of providers.
- Providers who see members outside the inpatient hospital setting or outside ambulatory free-standing facilities.
- Providers who are hospital-based but see the organization's members as a result of their independent relationship with the organization.
- Dentists who provide care under the organization's medical benefits.
- Non-physician providers who have an independent relationship with the organization, as defined above, and who provide care under the organization's medical benefits.
- Covering providers (locum tenens).
- Medical directors of urgent care centers and ambulatory surgical centers.

Providers Who Do Not Require Credentialing

- Providers who practice exclusively within the inpatient setting and who provide care for an organization's members only as a result of the members being directed to the hospital or other inpatient setting.
- Providers who practice exclusively within free-standing facilities and who provide care for organization members only as a result of members being directed to the facility and who are not listed separately in the CareSource Provider Directory.
- Pharmacists who work for a pharmacy benefit management (PBM) organization.
- Providers who do not provide care for members in a treatment setting (e.g., board-certified consultants).



Provider Selection Criteria

CareSource is committed to providing the highest quality of care and service to our members. Our providers are critical business partners with us in that endeavor. As a result, we have developed the following provider selection criteria to facilitate this optimal level of care and service, as well as promote mutually rewarding business partnerships with our providers.

The Institute of Medicine defines quality of care delivery as: *“The degree to which health services for individuals and populations increase the likelihood of desired health outcomes and are consistent with current professional knowledge.”*

CareSource has developed comprehensive care management and quality improvement programs to facilitate this level of quality-of-care delivery, as well as a comprehensive credentialing program to ensure that our providers have the appropriate training and expertise to serve our members from a care delivery and service perspective. CareSource bases selection on quality of care and service aspects, in addition to business and geographic needs for specific provider types in a nondiscriminatory manner.

The following selection criteria have been put in place and are assessed during the credentialing and recredentialing process in addition to day-to-day monitoring via internal mechanisms and interactions with our members.

Criteria:

- Active and unrestricted license in the state issued by the appropriate licensing board.
- Current DEA certificate (if applicable).
- Successful completion of all required education.
- Successful completion of all training programs pertinent to one's practice.
- For Doctors of Medicine (MDs) and Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine (DOs), successful completion of residency and/or fellowship training pertinent to the requested practice type.
- For providers where special training is required or expected for services being requested, successful completion of training.
- Board Certification is not required for primary care specialties. PCPs who are approved by the CareSource Credentialing Committee will appear in CareSource Provider Directories.
- Providers approved by the CareSource Credentialing Committee in non-primary care specialties will be listed in the Provider Directory as specialists if certified by a specialty board, which is recognized by the CareSource Credentialing Committee.
- Education, training, work history and experience are current and appropriate to the scope of practice requested.
- Malpractice insurance at specified limits established for all practitioners by the credentialing policy.
- Good standing with Medicaid and Medicare.
- Quality of care and practice history as judged by:
 - Medical malpractice history
 - Hospital medical staff performance
 - Licensure or specialty board actions or other disciplinary actions, medical or civil



- Lack of member grievances or complaints related to access and service, adverse outcomes, office environment, office staff or other adverse indicators of overall member satisfaction
 - Other quality of care measurements/activities
 - Business needs that may dictate policy exceptions require careful scrutiny of above factors to ensure quality credentialing
 - Lack of issues on Department of Health & Human Services Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG), System for Awards Management (SAM)/Excluded Parties List System (EPLS), or state site for sanctions or terminations (fraud and abuse)
- Signed, accurate credentialing application and contractual documents
 - Participation with Care Management, Quality Improvement and Credentialing programs
 - Compliance with standards of care and evidence of active initiatives to engage members in preventive care
 - Agreement to comply with plan formulary requirements or acceptance of Plan Drug Formulary as administered through the Pharmacy Benefit Manager
 - Agreement to access and availability standards established by the health plan
 - Compliance with service requirements outlined in the provider agreement and CareSource Provider Manual

Organizational Credentialing and Recredentialing

The following organizational providers are credentialed and recredentialed:

- Hospitals
- Home health agencies
- Skilled nursing facilities
- Free-standing ambulatory surgery centers
- Behavioral health facilities providing mental health or substance use services in an inpatient, residential or ambulatory setting

Additional organizational providers are also credentialed:

- Hospice providers
- Urgent care facilities, free-standing and not part of a hospital campus
- Dialysis centers
- Free-standing facilities that provide outpatient, non-emergent advanced radiology services (including MRI/MRA, CT and PET scans)

In addition to the urgent care and ambulatory surgical facilities being credentialed, the Medical Director or senior provider responsible for medical services will be credentialed using the standard credentialing and recredentialing processes.

The following elements are assessed for organizational providers:

- Provider is in good standing with state and federal regulatory bodies
- Provider has been reviewed and approved by an accrediting body



- Every three years is still in good standing with state and federal regulatory bodies and is reviewed and approved by an accrediting body
- Liability insurance coverage is maintained
- CLIA certificates are current
- Completion of a signed and dated application

Providers will be informed of the credentialing committee decision within 60 business days of the committee meeting. Providers will be considered recredentialed unless otherwise notified.

Provider Credentialing Rights

- Practitioners have the right to review information submitted to support their credentialing application upon request to the CareSource Credentialing department. CareSource keeps all submitted information locked and confidential.
- Practitioners have the right to correct incomplete, inaccurate or conflicting information by supplying corrections in writing to the Credentialing department prior to presenting to the credentialing committee. If any information obtained during the credentialing or recredentialing process varies substantially from the application, the practitioner will be notified and given the opportunity to correct this information prior to presenting to the credentialing committee. This could include information from outside sources like malpractice insurance carriers, state licensing boards, etc. CareSource is not required to provide information such as references, recommendations and peer-review protected information.
- Providers have the right to be informed of the status of their credentialing and recredentialing application upon request. CareSource is not required to provide status information such as references, recommendations and peer-review-protected information. An automated email is sent to providers once their application is submitted via the CareSource Provider Portal. This email directs them to contact Provider Services at **1-833-230-2101** to obtain application status updates. Provider service representatives can inform providers if their application is complete and they are showing as participating in the CareSource network, or if their application is still in process while referencing state-specific time frames.

Provider Responsibilities

Providers are monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure continuing compliance with participation criteria. CareSource will initiate immediate action in the event that the participation criteria are no longer met. Providers are required to inform CareSource of changes in status, such as being named in a medical malpractice suit, involuntary changes in hospital privileges, licensure or board certification or any event reportable to the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB).

Recredentialing

As part of the recredentialing process, CareSource considers information regarding performance to include investigation of all practitioner-specific member complaints in addition to monthly reviews of safety and quality issues collected through the quality improvement program, in addition to information regarding sanctions collected from the NPDB, Medicare and Medicaid sanctions and/or exclusion, Reinstatement Report, Medicare Opt-Out and the HHS/OIG. Providers will be considered recredentialed unless otherwise notified.



Board Certification Requirements

Effective January 1, 2003, physicians applying to become participating providers must be either board certified in their primary specialty or pursuing the pathway to certification as defined by their specialty board, with the exception of general dentists who will have board certification requirements waived in lieu of adequate education and training.

Effective September 10, 2010, PCPs may be exempted from the board certification requirement if they have successfully completed a primary care residency program and their education and training are consistent with their intended scope of practice.

Physicians who are pursuing certification must be certified within the time frame specified by their respective board. Failure to become certified may result in termination as a participating provider.

Physicians whose boards require periodic recertification will be expected but not required to be recertified, although failed attempts at recertification may be reason for termination.

To be credentialed as a subspecialist, physicians must:

- Complete an approved fellowship training program in the respective subspecialty and
- Be board certified by a board that is recognized and approved by the CareSource Credentialing Committee. If no subspecialty board exists or the board is not board recognized and approved by the CareSource Credentialing Committee, then subspecialty recognition will be determined based on education, training and experience requirements of the fellowship training program and/or other suitable board certification recognition.

Delegation of Credentialing/Recredentialing

CareSource will only enter into agreements to delegate credentialing and recredentialing if the entity that wants to be delegated is NCQA-accredited for these functions, follows NCQA credentialing standards or utilizes an NCQA-accredited credentials verification organization (CVO), and successfully passes a pre-delegation audit demonstrating compliance with NCQA, federal and state requirements.

A pre-delegation audit must be completed prior to entering into any delegated agreement. All pre-assessment evaluations will be performed utilizing the most current NCQA and regulatory requirements. The following will be included (at a minimum) in the review:

- Credentialing and recredentialing policies and procedures
- Credentialing and recredentialing committee meeting minutes from the previous year
- Credentialing and recredentialing provider file review

Delegates must be in good standing with Medicaid and CMS. Monthly reporting will be required from the delegated entity. This will be defined in an agreement between both parties.

CareSource may also choose to outsource the credentialing and recredentialing function at any time to an NCQA-accredited CVO. Providers will be notified of this and must adhere to the requests from the chosen CVO.



Reconsideration and Appeals of Credentialing/Recredentialing Decisions

CareSource may decide that an applying or participating provider may pose undue risk to our members and should be denied participation or be removed from CareSource's network. If this happens, the applying or participating provider will be notified in writing. Reconsideration and appeal opportunities are available unless an exception applies. Exceptions are set forth in the Provider Hearing Plan. To submit a request, the following steps apply:

Step 1

Submit to the Vice President/Senior Medical Director a reconsideration request in writing, along with any other supporting documentation.

CareSource
Attn: Vice President/Senior Medical Director
P.O. Box 8738
Dayton, OH 45401-8738

All reconsideration requests must be received by CareSource within 30 calendar days of the date the provider is notified of the decision. The request, along with any supporting information, will be presented to the Credentialing Committee for review at the next meeting. The committee will respond within 30 calendar days of that meeting, and the provider will be notified in writing of the committee's decision.

Step 2

If the committee maintains the original decision, an appeal may be made consistent with provisions of the Provider Hearing Plan unless an exception applies. Any appeal request must be submitted in writing and received by CareSource within 30 calendar days of the date the provider is notified of the reconsideration decision.

Appeals may be sent to:

CareSource
Attn: Vice President/Senior Medicaid Director
P.O. Box 8738
Dayton, OH 45401-8738

Applying providers may submit additional documents for reconsideration by the credentialing committee to the address above. An application rejection due to the provider's failure to submit a complete application is not subject to reconsideration or appeal.

If you would like to review the Provider Hearing Plan, please visit [CareSource.com/documents/fhp](https://www.caresource.com/documents/fhp).



Provider Disputes

Provider disputes for issues related to quality, professional competency or conduct should be sent to:

CareSource
Attn: Quality Improvement
P.O. Box 8738
Dayton, OH 45401-8738

Provider disputes for issues that are contractual or non-clinical should be sent to:

CareSource
Attn: Provider Relations
P.O. Box 8738
Dayton, OH 45401-8738

Summary Suspensions

CareSource reserves the right to immediately suspend or summarily dismiss, pending investigation, the participation status of a participating provider who, in the opinion of the CareSource Vice President/ Senior Medical Director, is engaged in behavior or who is practicing in a manner that appears to pose a significant risk to the health, welfare or safety of our members. Any participating provider who is subject to a suspension or termination may dispute the action and request a hearing through the Provider Hearing Plan unless an exception applies. Exceptions are set forth in the Provider Hearing Plan.





CLAIM SUBMISSIONS

As with other commercial health plans, CareSource's Marketplace plan members are responsible for copays, coinsurance and deductibles. Providers are responsible for collecting the appropriate payments.

In general, CareSource follows the claims reimbursement policies and procedures set forth by the relevant regulations and regulating bodies. These can be found at **CareSource.com** > Providers > Provider Policies. For expedited claims processing and payment delivery, please ensure addresses and phone numbers on file with CareSource are up to date. You can update this information on the CareSource Provider Portal at **CareSource.com** > Login > Provider Portal or email **ProviderMaintenance@CareSource.com**.

Billing Methods

CareSource accepts claims in a variety of formats, including paper and electronic claims. We encourage providers to submit routine claims electronically to take advantage of the following benefits:

- Faster claim processing
- Reduced administrative costs
- Reduced probability of errors or missing information
- Faster feedback on claims status
- Minimal staff training or cost



Vision Providers

Routine vision claims must be submitted to EyeMed through their provider web portal: eyemed.com/en-us.

For questions or more information, providers can visit the EyeMed website at: eyemed.com/en-us.

Hearing Providers

Routine hearing claims must be submitted to TruHearing through their provider web portal: www.truhearing.com

For questions or more information, providers can visit the TruHearing website at: www.truhearing.com.

Electronic Funds Transfer

CareSource offers electronic funds transfer (EFT) as a payment option. Visit the Provider Portal for additional information about the program and to enroll in EFT. Providers who elect to receive EFT payment may also elect to receive an EDI 835 (Electronic Remittance Advice). Providers can download their Explanation of Payment (EOP) from the Provider Portal or request a hard copy via the mail.

Benefits of EFT:

- **Simple** – Receive fully reconciled remittances electronically; eliminate paper checks and EOPs, which will increase efficiency with payment processing.
- **Convenient** – Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week; free training is also offered for providers.
- **Reliable** – Claim payments electronically deposited into your bank account.
- **Secure** – Access your account through CareSource's secure Provider Portal to view (and print if needed) remittances and transaction details.

Please Note: Third Party Liability (TPL)/COB information can be found in loop 2110/segment 2100 on the 835 file.

CareSource provides TPL/COB information for EFT. This can be found in segment 2100 Claim Payment Information and loop 2110 Service Payment Information on the 835 file in this format:

- NM1*PR*AETNA US HEALTHCARE
- NM1*GB*1*DOE*JOHN
- REF*6P*W246632770
- The NM1*PR (COB carrier), NM1* GB (other subscriber information from other payer) and REF*6P (other insurance group number)

To enroll in EFT, complete the enrollment form, available on **CareSource.com** > Providers > Provider Resources > [Claims](#) and fax it back to our payment processing vendor, ECHO Health Inc. Providers may also call ECHO support at 1-888-834-3511 for assistance with registration.



Electronic Claim Submission

Electronic data interchange (EDI) is the computer-to-computer exchange of business data in ANSI ASC X12 standard formats. EDI transmissions must follow the transaction and code set format specifications required by HIPAA. CareSource has invested in an EDI system to enhance our service to participating providers. Our EDI system complies with HIPAA standards for electronic claims submission.

Submit Claims Online Through Provider Portal

Providers may submit claims through the secure, online [Provider Portal](#). Online submission saves you money by eliminating the costs associated with printing and mailing paper claims. Using the portal for claims submission also provides additional benefits:

- Improves accuracy by decreasing the opportunities for transcription errors and missing or incorrect data
- Allows tracking and monitoring of claims through a convenient online search tool
- Includes attachments up to 100 MB that may be necessary for claim processing
- Allows uploading of a completed claim
- Allows corrections and resubmissions

Who Can Submit Claims Via the Portal?

CareSource's traditional providers, community partners and delegates and health homes all may submit claims through the [Provider Portal](#).

What Types of Claims Can Be Submitted?

- Professional medical office claims
- Institutional claims
- Behavioral health claims

Availity Clearinghouse

CareSource prefers electronic claim submission. To submit electronic claims, you may use the [Provider Portal](#) or our Availity clearinghouse.

You can reach Availity at 800-282-4548 or at www.availity.com.

Please provide the clearinghouse with the CareSource payer ID number: NVCS1.

Claims Payment Processing

CareSource has partnered with ECHO Health, Inc. to deliver provider payments. ECHO offers three payment methods you may choose from:

- Electronic funds transfer (EFT) – preferred
- Virtual Card Payment (QuicRemit) – Standard bank and card issuer fees apply*
- Paper checks



File Format

CareSource accepts electronic claims in the 837 ANSI ASC X12N (005010X ERRATA version) file format for professional and hospital claims.

5010 Transactions

In 2009, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released a final rule that updated standards for electronic health care and pharmacy transactions. This was in preparation to implement ICD-10 CM codes on October 1, 2015. The new standard is the HIPAA 5010 format. All trading partners and payers should be 5010 compliant.

Transactions Covered Under the 5010 Requirements

- 837 Health Care Claim/Encounter
- 276/277 Health Care Claim Status Request and Response
- 835 Health Care Claim Payment/Advice
- 270/271 Health Care Eligibility Benefit Inquiry and Response
- 278 Health Care Services Review (Prior Authorization Requests)
- 834 Benefit Enrollment and Maintenance
- 820 Group Premium Payment for Insurance Products
- NCPDP Version D.0

Please include the full physical address for billing 5010 transactions. P.O. Boxes are no longer accepted for the billing address. However, a P.O. Box or lock box can be used for the pay-to address (Loop 2010AB).

Procedure and Diagnosis Codes

HIPAA specifies that the health care industry uses the following four code sets when submitting health care claims electronically. CareSource also requires HIPAA-compliant codes on paper claims. Adopting a uniform set of medical codes is intended to simplify the process of submitting claims and reduce administrative burdens on providers and health plans. Local or proprietary codes are no longer allowed.

- International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition, Clinical Modification (ICD- 10- CM). Available from the U.S. Government Printing Office at 1-202-512-1800, 1-202-512-2250 (fax) and from many other vendors.
- Current Procedural Terminology, 4th Edition, (CPT-4). Available at www.ama-assn.org/amaone/cpt-current-procedural-terminology.
- HCFA Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS). Available at www.cms.gov/medicare/coding-billing/healthcare-common-procedure-system
- National Drug Codes (NDC). Available at www.fda.gov/.



Procedures That Do Not Have a Corresponding Code

- If a procedure is performed which cannot be classified by a CPT or HCPCS code, please include the following information with an unlisted CPT/HCPCS procedure code on the claim form:
 - A full, detailed description of the service provided.
 - A report, such as an operative report or a plan of treatment.
 - Any information that would assist in determining the service rendered. For example, 84999 is an unlisted lab code that would require additional explanation.
- Drug injections that do not have specific J code (J3490 thru J3999) and any assigned HCPCS J code that is not listed on the Medicare fee schedule require the NDC number, name of the drug and the dosage administered to the patient. The unit of measure billed must be defined.
- Claims for services that include a modifier 22 and claims for unlisted procedures must be accompanied by an operative report plus any other documentation that will assist in determining reimbursement.
- COB claims require a copy of the EOP from the primary carrier. Claim status is updated daily on our Provider Portal, and you can check claims that were submitted for the previous 24 months.

National Provider Identifier and Tax ID Numbers

Your National Provider Number (NPI) number and Tax ID are required on all claims. Claims submitted without these numbers will be rejected. Please contact your EDI vendor to find out where to use the appropriate identifying numbers on the forms you are submitting to the vendor.

Please Note: On paper claims, the NPI number should be placed in the following boxes based on form type:

- CMS 1500: Box 24J for the rendering Provider's NPI and (if applicable) Box 33A for the group NPI
- UB04: Box 56

Location of Provider Information on Professional Claims

On 837P professional claims (005010X222A1), the Provider's NPI should be in the following location:

- 2010AA Loop – Billing Provider Name
- 2310B Loop – Rendering Provider Name
- 2010AA Loop – Billing Provider Name
 - Identification Code Qualifier – NM108 = XX
 - Identification Code – NM109 = Billing Provider NPI
- 2310B Loop – Rendering Provider Name
 - Identification Code Qualifier – NM108 = XX
 - Identification Code – NM109 = Rendering Provider NPI

The Billing Provider TIN (Tax Identification Number) must be submitted as the secondary provider identifier using a REF segment, which is either the Employer Identification Number (EIN) for organizations or the Social Security Number (SSN) for individuals, see below:

- Reference Identification Qualifier – REF01 = EI (for EIN) or SY (for SSN)
- Reference Identification – REF02 = Billing Provider TIN or SSN



Institutional Claims

On 837I institutional claims (005010223A2), the Billing Provider NPI should be in the following location:

- 2010AA Loop – Billing Provider Name
 - Identification Code Qualifier – NM108 = XX
 - Identification Code – NM109 = Billing Provider NPI

The billing provider TIN must be submitted as the secondary provider identifier using a REF segment, which is either the EIN for organizations or the SSN for individuals, see below:

- Reference Identification Qualifier – REF01 = EI (for EIN) or SY (for SSN)
- Reference Identification – REF02 = Billing Provider TIN or SSN

On all electronic claims, the CareSource member ID number should go on:

- 2010BA Loop – Subscriber Name
- NM109 = Member ID Number

*Payment processing fees are what you pay your bank and credit card processor for use of payment via credit card.

To register for claims payment, complete the ECHO enrollment form located on **CareSource.com** > Provider > Claims and fax, email, or mail it back to ECHO. You may call ECHO Customer Support at 1-888-834-3511 for assistance with your enrollment.

Paper Claim Submissions

For the most efficient processing of your claims, CareSource recommends you submit all claims electronically. For more information on electronic claims, please reference the “**Electronic Claims Submission**” section of this manual, on **page 21**.

Paper claim forms are encouraged for services that require clinical documentation or other forms to process. If T formerly UB92 form for Facilities.

Paper claim submission must be done using the most current form version as designated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and National Uniform Claim Committee (NUCC).

We cannot accept handwritten claims or SuperBills. Detailed instructions for completing each form type are available at www.nucc.org.

Please note: On paper claims, the NPI number should be placed in the following boxes based on form type:

- CMS 1500: Box 24J for the rendering provider’s NPI and (if applicable) Box 33A for the group NPI
- UB-04 (CMS 1450): Box 56

**All claims (EDI and paper) must include:**

- Patient (member) name.
- Patient address.
- Insured's ID number – Be sure to provide the complete CareSource member ID number of the patient. For the most efficient processing of your claims, CareSource recommends you submit all claims electronically.
- Patient's birth date – Always include the patient's date of birth. This allows us to identify the correct member in case we have more than one member with the same name.
- Place of service – Use standard CMS (HCFA) location codes.
- ICD-10 diagnosis code(s).
- HIPAA-compliant CPT or HCFA Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code(s) and modifiers, where modifiers are applicable.
- Units, where applicable (anesthesia claims require minutes).
- Date of service – Please include dates for each individual service rendered. A date range cannot be accepted, even though some claim forms contain From/To formats. Please enter each date individually.
- Prior authorization number, where applicable – A number is needed to match the claim to corresponding prior authorization information. This is only needed if the service provided required prior authorization.
- NPI – Please refer to sections for professional and institutional claim information.
- Federal Tax ID number or physician social security number – Every provider practice (e.g., legal business entity) has a different Tax ID number.
- Signature of physician or supplier – The provider's complete name should be included, or if we already have the physician's signature on file, indicate "signature on file" and enter the date the claim is signed in the date field.

What to Include on Claims that Require National Drug Code

- NDC and unit of measure (e.g., pill, milliliter (cc), international unit or gram)
- Quantity administered – number of NDC units
- NDC unit price – detail charge divided by quantity administered
- HCPCS codes that will require NDCs on professional claims (submitted on the 837P format)



Instructions for National Drug Code on Paper Claims

All of the following information is required for each applicable code required on a claim:

- In the shaded area of 24A, enter the N4 qualifier (only the N4 qualifier is acceptable)
- 11-digit NDC (this excludes the N4 qualifier)
- A unit of measurement code – F2, GR, ML or UN (only acceptable codes)
- The metric decimal or unit quantity that follows the unit of measurement code
- Do not enter a space between the qualifier and the NDC, or qualifier and quantity
- Do not enter hyphens or spaces with the NDC
- Use three spaces between the NDC number and the units on paper forms

Tips for Submitting Paper Claims

For the most efficient processing of your claims, CareSource recommends you submit all claims electronically.

CareSource uses an optical/intelligent character recognition (OCR/ICR) system to capture claims information, which increases efficiency, improves accuracy and results in faster turnaround time.

To ensure optimal claims processing timelines:

- First consider submitting EDI claims. They are generally processed more quickly than paper claims.
- If you submit paper claims, we require the most current form version as designated by CMS and NUCC.
- No handwritten (including printed claims with any handwritten information) claims or Super Bills will be accepted.
- Use only original claim forms; do not submit claims that have been photocopied or printed from a website.
- Fonts should be 10- to 14-point (capital letters preferred) with printing in black ink.
- Do not use liquid correction fluid, highlighters, stickers, labels or rubber stamps.
- Ensure that printing is aligned correctly so that all data is contained within the corresponding boxes on the form.
- It is recommended that you submit your 12-digit CareSource Provider ID, located in your Welcome Letter, in conjunction with your required NPI number. Please refer to sections for Professional and Institutional claim information.
- Federal Tax ID number or physician SSN is required for all claim submissions.

Please send all paper claim forms to CareSource:

CareSource
Attn: Claims Department
P.O. Box 3607
Dayton, OH 45401

Claim Submission Timely Filing

Claims must be submitted within 180 calendar days of the date of service or discharge.

We will not be able to pay a claim if there is incomplete, incorrect or unclear information on the claim. If the claim is denied, then providers can submit claims disputes within 90 days or claims appeals within 365 days.

Claim Processing Guidelines

Please reference the claim submission timely filing time frames above. If the claim is submitted after the time frame allotted, the claim will be denied for timely filing.

- If you do not agree with the decision of the processed claim, you have 12 months from the date of service to ask us to review the claim again.
- If the provider was denied authorization or reimbursement due to not obtaining a required prior authorization, then the provider has 365 calendar days from the date of service or discharge, unless otherwise specified in your contract, to submit an appeal.
- If the claim appeal is not submitted in the required time frame, the claim will not be considered, and the appeal will be denied.
- If a member has other insurance and CareSource is secondary, the provider may submit for secondary payment within 180 calendar days from the date of service or discharge or 90 calendar days from when the primary carrier Explanation of Benefits (EOB) is received, whichever is greater.
- If a claim is denied for COB information needed, the provider must submit the primary payer's EOB for paper claims or primary carrier's payment information for EDI claims within the remainder of the initial claims timely filing period. If the initial timely filing period has elapsed, the EOB must be submitted to us within 90 calendar days from the primary payer's EOB date. If a copy of the claim and EOB is not submitted within the required time frame, the claim will be denied for timely filing.





Claim Status

Provider Portal at **CareSource.com** > Login > Provider, selecting your state.

Claims' statuses are updated daily on our Provider Portal, and you can check claims that were submitted for the previous 36 months. You can search by member ID number, member name and date of birth or claim number.

You can find the following claim information on the Provider Portal:

- Claim history available up to 36 months from the date of service
- Submission of claim appeals and disputes
- Reason for payment, denial or adjustment
- Check numbers and dates
- Procedure/diagnostic
- Claim payment date
- Submission of attachments for denied claims
- Easy submission for corrected claim when the claim was submitted online via the Provider Portal
- Accessibility to claim recovery letters

Code Editing

CareSource uses clinical editing software to help evaluate the accuracy of diagnosis and procedure codes on submitted claims to ensure claims are processed consistently, accurately and efficiently.

CareSource's code editing software finds any coding conflict or inconsistent information on claims. For example, a claim may contain a conflict between the patient's age or gender and diagnosis, such as a pregnancy diagnosis for a male patient. Our software resolves these conflicts or indicates a need for additional information from the provider.

CareSource's code editing software helps evaluate the accuracy of the procedure code only, not the medical necessity of the procedure.

Coding and Payment Policies

CareSource strives to be consistent with national commercial standards regarding the acceptance, adjudication and payment of claims. These standards apply to the code/code set(s) submitted and related clinical standards for claims received either as a paper copy or electronically. We apply HIPAA standards to all electronically received claims. Accordingly, we accept only HIPAA-compliant code sets (HCPCS, CPT, ICD-10 and NDC). Specific contract language stipulating the receipt, processing and payment of specific codes and modifiers is honored as would be any aspect of a provider contract. Generally accepted commercial health insurance rules regarding coding and reimbursement are also used when appropriate. CareSource strives to follow the prevailing National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) edits as maintained by CMS.



CareSource uses coding industry standards, such as the AMA CPT manual, CCI and input from medical specialty societies to review multiple aspects of a claim for coding reasonableness, including, but not limited to:

- Bundling issues
- Diagnosis to procedure matching
- Gender and age appropriateness
- Maximum units of a code per day
- Currently valid CPT/HCPSC code or modifier usage

CareSource seeks to apply fair and reasonable coding edits. We maintain a provider appeals function that will review, upon request, any claim that is denied based upon the use of a certain code, the relationship between two or more codes, unit counts or the use of modifiers. This review will take into consideration all the previously mentioned CCI and national commercial standards when considering the appeal. In order to ensure that all relevant information is considered, appropriate clinical information should be supplied with the claim appeal. This clinical information allows the CareSource appeals team to consider why the code set(s) and modifier(s) being submitted are differing from the usual standards inherent in our edit logic. The clinical information may provide evidence to override the edit logic when the clinical information demonstrates a reasonable exception to the norm.

Any specific claim is subject to current CareSource claim logic and other established coding benchmarks. Any consideration of a provider's claim payment concern regarding clinical edit logic will be based upon review of generally accepted coding standards and the clinical information particular to the specific claim in question.

Explanation of Payment

An Explanation of Payment (EOP) is a statement of the current statuses of claims that have been submitted to CareSource and entered into our system. EOPs are generated weekly. However, you may not receive an EOP each time they are generated if you do not have any claims in the system. Providers who receive EFT payments may also elect to receive an Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA).

Information Included on Explanation of Payment

EOPs include paid and denied claims. Denied claims appear on the EOP with a HIPAA-compliant remark code indicating the reason the claim was denied. It is the provider's responsibility to resubmit claims with the correct or completed information needed for processing.

Checking Claim Status

You can track the progress of your submitted claims at any time through our [Provider Portal](#). Check **CareSource.com** for how to register for access to the portal.

Explanation of Benefits

CareSource members receive an Explanation of Benefits (EOB) that informs members of their deductible and out-of-pocket status and shows copays and coinsurance they have paid. The EOB outlines the amount the provider billed, the amount CareSource reimbursed and the remaining amount for which the member is responsible.



Coordination of Benefits

CareSource collects Coordination of Benefits (COB) information for our members. This information helps us to ensure that we are paying claims appropriately.

While we try to maintain information as accurately as possible, we rely on numerous sources of information that are updated periodically, and some information may not always be fully reflected on our Provider Portal. Please ask CareSource members for all health care insurance information at the time of service.

Search Coordination of Benefits on the Provider Portal By:

- Member ID number
- CareSource case number
- Medicaid number/MMIS number
- Member name and date of birth

Coordination of Benefits Overpayment

If a provider receives a payment from another carrier after receiving payment from CareSource for the same items or services and it is determined the other carrier is primary, this is considered an overpayment. Adjustments to the overpayment will be made on subsequent reimbursements to the provider, or providers can issue refund checks to CareSource for any overpayments. Providers should not refund any money received from a third party to a member.

Workers' Compensation

Claims indicating that a member's diagnosis was caused by the member's employment will not be paid. The provider will be advised to submit the charges to workers' compensation for reimbursement.

Third-Party Liability/Subrogation

Claims indicating the provided services were the result of an injury will be considered as a case of possible subrogation. Any third-party liability will be determined. CareSource will pay the provider for all covered services. Then, we will pursue recovery from any third parties involved.

Member Financial Liability

Some benefits under a plan may have first dollar coverage while others will require a member to first pay an annual deductible before CareSource contributes payment for the services. In addition to the deductible, copayments or coinsurance are also applicable for many covered services. It is up to the provider to collect these amounts at the time of service. If a member overpays his or her financial liability (e.g., deductible, copay, coinsurance), the provider must refund the overpayment to the member.

Grace Period

Please refer to the “**Member Disenrollment**” chapter on **page 45** for more information on the grace period.



REFERRALS AND PRIOR AUTHORIZATIONS

CareSource uses a select network of hospitals, physicians and ancillary providers. Typically, CareSource does not pay for non-network, non-emergent services; however, these may be provided in limited situations with prior authorization (PA) from CareSource's Utilization Management (UM) team. Any participating facility/provider requesting prior authorization for an elective admission must obtain prior authorization for the use of any out-of-network RAPHL (Radiologist, Anesthesiologist, Pathologist, Hospitalist and Laboratory). Please visit the [Provider Portal](#) at **CareSource.com** for the most current information on PA and referral requirements.

Referral Information

Generally, CareSource does not require referrals or PA before members can see in-network specialty physicians. However, some providers require referrals before they will schedule new patients. Also, prior authorizations are needed before CareSource will pay for services from out-of-network providers, except in cases of emergency and other scenarios as defined in the Evidence of Coverage (EOC).

Referral Procedures

Any treating doctor can refer CareSource members to specialists. Simply put a note about the referral in the patient's chart. Please remember, nonparticipating specialists require PA for any services rendered to CareSource members.

You can also submit a request on the CareSource Provider Portal at **CareSource.com** > Login > [Provider Portal](#). You can request a PA by calling Provider Services and telling our IVR that you want to request a prior authorization.

If you have difficulty finding a specialist for your CareSource member, please use our online Find a Doctor/Provider tool at **CareSource.com** > Members > Tools & Resources > [Find a Doctor](#) or call Provider Services at **1-833-230-2101**.



How to Make a Referral to a Specialist

Referring doctor – Document the referral in the patient’s medical chart. You are not required to use a referral form or send a copy of it to our health plan, but you must notify the specialist of your referral.

Specialist – Document in the patient’s chart that the patient was referred to you for services. Referral numbers are not required on claims submitted for referred services. Generally, specialist-to-specialist referrals are not allowed. However, in some cases, specialists may provide services or make referrals in the same manner as a PCP. Documentation in the medical record should contain the number of visits or length of time of each referral. Medical records may be subject to random audits to ensure compliance with this referral procedure.

Referrals to an out-of-plan provider – A member may be referred to an out-of-plan provider if the member needs medical care that can only be received from a doctor or other provider who is not participating with our health plan. Treating providers must get PA from our health plan before sending a member to an out-of-plan provider.

Referrals for second opinions – A second opinion is not required for surgery or other medical services. However, providers or members may request a second opinion.

The following criteria should be used when selecting a provider for a second opinion:

- The provider must be a participating provider. If not, PA must be obtained to send the patient to a nonparticipating provider.
- The provider must not be affiliated with the member’s PCP or the specialist practice group from which the first opinion was obtained.
- The provider must be in an appropriate specialty area.
- Results of laboratory tests and other diagnostic procedures must be made available to the provider giving the second opinion.

Prior Authorization Information for Utilization Management

Prior Authorization Procedures

The Provider Portal is the preferred method to request PAs for health care services. You get immediate approval or a pending status for some services, and you can also check pending claim status. Email us at **CiteAutoAssistance@CareSource.com** for portal login assistance.

Online

Visit **CareSource.com** > Login > Provider. Alternate methods include phone, fax or mail.

Alternative Submission Methods

| Phone | Fax | Mail |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1-833-230-2101 1-833-230-2036 (NICU) | 1-844-676-0372 937-396-3499 (NICU) | CareSource P.O. Box 1307 Dayton, OH 45401-1307 |

Copies of prior authorization forms can be found on **CareSource.com** > Providers > Forms.



When requesting an authorization, please provide the following information:

- Member/patient name and CareSource member ID number
- Provider name and NPI/TIN
- Anticipated date of service
- Diagnosis code and narrative
- Procedure, treatment or service requested
- Number of visits requested, if applicable
- Reason for referring to an out-of-plan provider, if applicable
- Clinical information to support the medical necessity for the service

Prior Authorization Criteria

Please Note: Below is not a comprehensive listing, and other criteria may be associated to other items requiring PA.

- **If the provider fails to obtain PA for non-emergency services, neither the plan nor a covered person will be required to pay for those non-emergency services.**
- If the request is for **inpatient admission** (whether it is elective, urgent or emergent), please include admitting diagnosis, presenting symptoms, plan of treatment, clinical review and anticipated discharge needs.
- If **inpatient surgery** is planned, please include the date of surgery, surgeon and facility, admit date, admitting diagnosis and presenting symptoms, plan of treatment and any appropriate clinical and anticipated discharge needs.
- If the request is for **outpatient surgery**, please include the date of surgery, surgeon and facility, diagnosis and procedure planned and anticipated discharge needs.
- PA is not based solely on medical necessity, but on a combination of member eligibility, medical necessity, medical appropriateness and coverage/benefit limitations. When PA is requested for a service rendered in the same month, member eligibility is verified at the time the request is received. When the service is to be rendered in a subsequent month, authorization is given contingent upon member eligibility on the date of service and adherence to other terms and conditions of the EOC, such as benefit limits. Providers must verify eligibility on the date of service. CareSource is not able to pay claims for services provided to ineligible members. It is important to request PA as soon as it is known that the service is needed.
- All services that require PA from CareSource should be authorized before the service is delivered. CareSource is not able to pay claims for services in which prior authorization is required but not obtained by the provider. CareSource will notify you of PA determinations via fax and via mail to the provider's address on file.
- For all PA decisions (standard or urgent), CareSource provides notice to the provider and member as expeditiously as the member's health condition requires. Please specify if you believe the request is urgent.
- Authorizations are not a guarantee of payment. Authorizations are based on medical necessity and are contingent on eligibility, benefits and other factors. Benefits may be subject to limitations and/or qualifications and will be determined when the claim is received for processing.



Services that Require Prior Authorization

Please visit **CareSource.com** > Providers > Provider Portal > [Prior Authorization](#) for the most up-to-date information of services that require prior authorization.

Newborn and NICU Authorizations

CareSource requires a PA for Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) level of care regardless of location of member or length of stay.

Newborns may require a higher level of care based on their clinical presentation or maternal risk factors. If the newborn requires non-newborn care or admission to NICU, an authorization must be on file for reimbursement.

As per CareSource policy, if a claim is submitted with a higher level of care than a healthy newborn Diagnosis Related Group (DRG) code and there is no authorization on file, the claim will be processed based on standard well-newborn DRG rate. You may appeal your request for payment of the billed DRG by submitting appropriate supporting clinical documentation.

Determination Time Frames

CareSource's time frames to make authorization determinations vary depending upon the member's health condition, completeness of submission of information and state requirements. Please reference the appropriate table below to find determination time frames:

| Review Category | Time frame for CareSource to respond when all information is present | Time frame for CareSource to request additional information | Provider response time to submit additional information | CareSource response time after receiving additional information |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| Inpatient – Initial | 24 hours | N/A | N/A | 24 hours |
| Inpatient – Continued Stay Review (CSR) | 24 hours if request is received before current authorization end date/3 calendar days if received after end date | 24 hours | 48 hours | 24 hours |
| Outpatient/ Elective – Non-Urgent | Five business days from request of receipt | N/A | N/A | Five business days from request of receipt |
| Outpatient/ Elective – Urgent | 48 hours | 48 hours | 48 hours | 48 hours |
| Retrospective | Two business days | N/A | N/A | Two business days |



UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT

Utilization management (UM) helps maintain the quality and appropriateness of health care services provided to CareSource members. The UM department performs all UM activities, including PA, concurrent review, discharge planning and other utilization activities. We monitor inpatient and outpatient admissions and procedures to ensure that appropriate care is rendered in the most appropriate setting using the most appropriate resources.

We also monitor the coordination of medical care to ensure its continuity and refer members to CareSource's Care Management department, if needed. CareSource's UM criteria are available in writing by fax, mail and via the website.

Fax

1-844-676-0372

937-396-3499 (NICU)

Mail

CareSource
P.O. Box 1307
Dayton, OH 45401-1307

On an annual basis, CareSource completes an assessment of satisfaction with the UM process and identifies any areas for improvement opportunities.



Criteria

CareSource utilizes nationally recognized criteria to determine medical necessity and appropriateness of inpatient hospital, rehabilitation and skilled nursing facility admissions. These criteria are designed to assist providers in identifying the most efficient quality care practices in use today. They are not intended to serve as a set of rules or as a replacement for a physician's medical judgment about individual patients. CareSource defaults to all applicable state and federal guidelines regarding criteria for authorization of covered services. CareSource also has medical policies developed to supplement nationally recognized criteria. If a patient's clinical information does not meet the criteria, the case is forwarded to a CareSource Medical Director for further review and determination. Physician reviewers from CareSource are available to discuss individual cases with attending physicians upon request.

Providers can access CareSource's medical policies online at **CareSource.com** > Provider > [Provider Policies](#).

Utilization review determinations are based only on appropriateness of care and service and existence of coverage. CareSource does not reward providers or our own staff for denying coverage or services.

There are no financial incentives for our staff members that encourage them to make decisions that result in underutilization.

Our members' health is always our number one priority. Upon request, CareSource will provide the clinical rationale or criteria used in making medical necessity determinations. You may request the information by calling or faxing the CareSource UM department. If you would like to discuss an adverse decision with CareSource's physician reviewer, please call the Peer-to-Peer line at **1-833-230-2168** within five (5) business days of the determination.

Post-Stabilization Services

Post-stabilization care services are covered services related to an emergency medical condition that a treating physician views as medically necessary after an emergency medical condition has been stabilized to maintain the member's stabilized condition. PA is not required for coverage of post-stabilization services when these services are provided in any emergency department or for services in an observation setting by a participating provider.

To request PA for observation services as a nonparticipating provider or to request authorization for an inpatient admission, please visit the Provider Portal at **CareSource.com** > Login > [Provider Portal](#).

You can also request a PA by calling Provider Services at **1-833-230-2101** and selecting the option to request a PA. During regular business hours, your call will be answered by our UM department. If calling after regular business hours, the call will be answered by our 24-Hour Nurse Advice Line.

"Post-Stabilization Care Services" are defined by 42 C.F.R 422.113.

If you have questions related to post-stabilization service, please call the Provider Services lines listed above.



Access to Staff

Providers may call Provider Services to contact our UM staff with any questions at **1-833-230-2101**.

Staff Availability

- Staff members are available via the toll-free telephone line or direct dial telephone number from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. PT Monday through Friday for inbound calls regarding UM issues.
- Staff members can receive inbound communication regarding UM issues after normal business hours. Providers may leave voice-mail messages on these telephone lines after business hours, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A dedicated fax line and Provider Portal for medical necessity determination requests is also available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Staff members can send outbound communication regarding UM inquiries during normal business hours, unless otherwise agreed upon.
- Staff members are identified by first name/last initial, title and organization name when initiating or returning calls regarding UM issues.
- Staff members are available to accept collect calls regarding UM issues.
- Staff members are accessible to callers who have questions about the UM process.

For the best interest of our members and to promote their positive health care outcomes, CareSource supports and encourages continuity of care and coordination of care between medical care providers as well as between physical care providers and behavioral health providers.

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PHARMACY

CareSource is a qualified health plan in the Health Insurance Marketplace that provides prescription drug coverage. This benefit will provide coverage for prescriptions obtained from an in-network retail pharmacy, mail-order pharmacy or specialty pharmacy. Some drugs administered in the patient's home may also be covered under the pharmacy benefit.

Prescription Drug Coverage

Copayment/Coinsurance Requirements

Members may be required to pay a copayment or coinsurance for covered prescription drugs. Our plans offer lower cost shares for less costly drugs. For example, there may be a lower charge for a generic drug, a higher copay for a preferred brand-name drug and an even higher copay for a nonpreferred drug. A drug's copay will never exceed the actual cost of the drug itself.

For specialty pharmacy, a coinsurance is applied. Coinsurance is a percentage of the drug's cost. When members pay a percentage, their cost may be higher than expected for many reasons:

- The cost of the drug may be high.
 - For example, assume the coinsurance is 30 percent. In this case, a \$250 drug will be more costly than a \$25 drug.
- The drug may not be on a preferred tier on the formulary, so the member pays at a higher tier.
- The member may be buying a more expensive brand-name drug when there is a generic equivalent available for lesser cost, if authorized.

Prescribing providers for CareSource's Marketplace plan members must contact the plan for medication PAs.

For a complete list of drugs available, visit **CareSource.com** > Providers > Tools & Resources > [Drug Formulary](#). Members may also confirm coverage and cost of a specific drug using the CareSource Find My Prescriptions tool at **CareSource.com** > Members > Tools & Resources > [Find My Prescriptions](#).

Tiered Medications

Every drug covered on the CareSource Marketplace Drug Formulary is in one of the tiers below. Typically, the higher the cost-sharing tier number, the higher the cost for the drug:

Tier 0: No copayment or coinsurance. These medications include preventive medications.

Tier 1: Prescription drugs in this tier contain low-cost generic drugs.

Tier 2: Prescription drugs have a higher coinsurance or copayment than those in Tier 1. This tier will contain preferred medications that may be single- or multi-source brand-name drugs.

Tier 3: Prescription drugs have a higher coinsurance or copayment than those in Tier 2. This tier will contain nonpreferred medications. This will include medications considered single- or multi-source brand-name drugs.

Tier 4: Prescription drugs have a higher coinsurance or copayment than those in Tier 3. Medications generally classified as specialty medications fall into this category.

Drug Formulary

CareSource uses evidence-based guidelines to ensure health care services and medications meet the standards of excellent medical practice and are the lowest cost alternative for the member.

CareSource uses a Drug Formulary of covered drugs. The Drug Formulary contains information about drugs covered, their cost share tiers and limitations of coverage (such as PAs, quantity limits and step therapy protocols). Drugs are listed by therapeutic class and also by alphabetical index so that therapeutic interchanges for most drug classes are easier to compare. To learn more about how to use our pharmaceutical management procedures, **please visit our website's Pharmacy page at [CareSource.com](https://www.caresource.com)** > Provider Overview > Education > Patient Care > [Pharmacy](#).

CareSource updates the Drug Formulary regularly and communicates any updates online on the Drug Formulary Changes pages. The most up-to-date formulary may be found online at **[CareSource.com](https://www.caresource.com)** > Providers > Tools & Resources > [Drug Formulary](#). Drugs not listed on the Drug Formulary are not covered without prior approval.

Quantity, Supply, Duration and Benefit Limits

Quantity limits and dosing limits are based on normal manufacturers' recommended dosing frequencies and long-term safety considerations, diagnosis and best practices. Limits on opioids or other substances of abuse are based upon maximal morphine equivalent dosing limits or applicable law. Additionally, benefit limitations may pertain to preventive coverage or as defined by applicable rights to coverage for our members.



Step Therapy

Certain medications on the Drug Formulary are covered if utilization criteria are met. Step therapy is one such utilization technique that requires a first step formulary medication be tried and failed prior to the approval of a step two formulary medication. A reasonable clinical trial of the step one drug is defined to include appropriate use for labeled or compendia-supported indications, titration of the step one drug (where appropriate) and supporting evidence (such as provider notes or lab results) to show the step one drug has failed. Step two drugs are formulary medications which may require the member to pay higher cost share and also may be more costly to the plan. Step therapy is designed to preserve best practice and protect our member's financial medication burden.

Generic Substitution & Therapeutic Exchange

Generic substitution occurs when a pharmacy dispenses a generic drug that is equivalent to the prescribed brand-name drug. Generic drugs are usually priced lower than their brand-name equivalents and should be considered the first line of prescribing subject to applicable rules. Members and providers can expect the generic to produce the same effect and have the same safety profile as the brand-name drug.

Additionally, if a non-formulary brand drug is requested instead of the generic equivalent, a PA request would be required. Non-Formulary Medications Policy requires submission of clinical documentation including clinical notes, proper MedWatch form submissions, etc., as explained in the policy. A determination of medical necessity will be made as explained in the Prior Authorizations section below. If approved, members will pay higher copayments. This can be significant for our members.

Prior Authorization

Pharmacy PA requests are reviewed, and determinations are made within:

| Benefit | Time Frame |
|--|---------------------|
| Pharmacy Benefit (Standard) | 72 Hours |
| Pharmacy Benefit (Expedited) | 24 Hours |
| Outpatient Drugs Covered Under Medical Benefit (Standard) | Seven Business Days |
| Outpatient Drugs Covered Under Medical Benefit (Expedited) | 24 Hours |
| Outpatient Drugs Covered Under Medical Benefit (Retrospective) | Two Business Days |

Pharmacy Benefit Prior Authorization Requests

Electronic prior authorization submission through your contracted vendor, such as CoverMyMeds or SureScripts, is the preferred method to request prior authorizations for pharmacy benefit services. You can submit and check the status of electronic prior authorization requests through the Provider Portal.

Alternate Submission Methods

| Fax | Phone (emergency requests only) |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1-866-930-0019 | 1-833-230-2101 |



Outpatient Drugs Covered Under Medical Benefit Prior Authorization Requests

The CareSource [Provider Portal](#) is the preferred method to request PAs for outpatient medical benefit drug services. You can submit requests and check the status of requests through the portal.

Email CiteAutoAssistance@CareSource.com for portal login assistance.

Alternate Submission Method

| |
|-----------------------|
| Fax |
| 1-888-399-0271 |

Copies of prior authorization forms can be found on [CareSource.com](#) > Providers > [Forms](#).

Authorizations are not a guarantee of payment. PA is not based solely on medical necessity, but on a combination of member eligibility, medical necessity, medical appropriateness and coverage/benefit limitations.

CareSource is not able to pay claims for services provided to ineligible members.

CareSource is not able to pay claims for services in which PA is required but not obtained by the provider.

Please visit [CareSource.com](#) > Providers > Provider Portal > [Prior Authorization](#) for the most up-to-date information on services that require PA.

CareSource will notify you of PA determinations via fax per the prescriber contact listed on your request.

Formulary Drug Exceptions

Exceptions are requests for drugs not covered on the health plan's Drug Formulary. Typically, our formulary includes more than one drug for treating a particular condition. These different possibilities are called alternative drugs. If an alternative drug would be just as effective or considered a treatment standard of care equal to or better than the drug you are requesting, we will generally not approve your request for an exception. Reasons for approving an exception could include lack of available alternatives on our Formulary to treat the member's condition, a severe intolerance or allergy to all our formulary drugs causing hospitalization or submission of a MedWatch notice to the FDA, or the member has failed all available formulary options.

As mentioned previously, drugs that are on the formulary may have UM applied for reasons of cost, safety, allowances by state laws and more. All documentation to request an exception must establish the necessity of the requested drug over the available drugs covered by the plan as per each policy.

CareSource has an exception process that allows the member, the member's representative or the prescribing physician to make a request for a formulary coverage exception or an exception to UM. The member, member's representative or prescribing physician may initiate the request by calling Member Services. CareSource then reaches out to the provider to obtain the appropriate documentation.

CareSource will provide a decision no later than 72 hours after the request is received, or within 24 hours if the request is expedited. If the initial exception request is denied, providers have the right to request an external review by an Independent Review Organization (IRO). The external review process is outlined in the "**Member Grievances and Appeals**" chapter of this manual, starting on [page 55](#).



Other Medical Supplies and Durable Medical Equipment

Limited durable medical equipment (DME) may be covered on the Drug Formulary. Please visit our website for the most recent formulary list at **CareSource.com** > Providers > Tools & Resources > [Drug Formulary](#).

Medications Administered in the Provider's Clinical Setting

Medications that are administered in a provider setting, such as a physician's office, hospital outpatient department, clinic, dialysis center or infusion center will be billed to the health plan through the member's medical benefit. PA requirements now exist for many injectable medications.

Medication Therapy Management Program

CareSource offers a Medication Therapy Management (MTM) program for all members. MTM services allow local pharmacists to work collaboratively with physicians and other prescribers to enhance quality of care, improve medication compliance, address medication needs and provide health care to patients in a cost-effective manner. You may be contacted by a pharmacist to discuss your patients' medications. We also encourage members to talk with their pharmacist about their medications, as we want to make sure they are getting the best results from the medications they are taking.

Network Pharmacies

Our Pharmacy Directory gives members a complete list of our network pharmacies, or all of the pharmacies that have agreed to fill covered prescriptions for our plan members. Please visit our website for a complete list of network pharmacies at **CareSource.com** > Members > Tools & Resources > Find My Prescriptions > [Find A Pharmacy](#).





MEMBER ENROLLMENT AND ELIGIBILITY

The Health Insurance Marketplace is responsible for determining whether applicants are eligible for benefits under the plan, the application and enrollment processes and any subsidy level that may apply. Applicants must be citizens of the United States and reside in the plan's service area.

Members must enroll in the Marketplace every year. They must inform the Marketplace if they become pregnant, have a baby, change address or phone number, have a change in income or marital status or become eligible for other health care coverage.

Member ID Cards

The member ID card is used to identify a CareSource member; it does not guarantee eligibility or benefits coverage. Members may disenroll from CareSource and retain their ID card. Therefore, it is important to verify member eligibility prior to each service rendered.

Providers may use our secure [Provider Portal](#) or call Provider Services at **1-833-230-2101** to check member eligibility:

- Click on "Member Eligibility" on the left, which is the first tab. Make sure to enter the full 11-digit member ID number for the person, and if a dependent, include the dependent suffix.

Members are asked to present an ID card each time services are accessed. If you are not familiar with the person seeking care and cannot verify the person as a member of our health plan, please ask to see photo identification.



Sample Marketplace Member ID Card

| CareSource [Low Premium Silver 7000 \$5 Generic Drugs] | |
|--|--|
| Member: [Jeff Doe] | Dependents: [01 Jane Doe] [02 John Doe] [03 Mike Doe] [04 Ron Doe] [05 Susan Doe] [06 Sara Doe] [07 Joe Doe] [08 Kathy Doe] |
| Member ID: [14800000000-00] | NV 2026 |
| Health Plan: [XXXXXXXXXX-XX] | |
| Payer ID: [CSNV1] | |
| PCP: [\$/%*] | Spec: [\$/%*] |
| UrgCare: [\$/%*] | ER: [\$/%*] |
| *after Ind. [\$00,000]/Fam. \$00,000 Annual Deductible Ind. [\$00,000]/Fam. \$00,000 Out of Pocket Max | |

| CareSource.com/marketplace | |
|--|---|
| This card does not guarantee coverage. To verify benefits, view claims, or find a provider, visit the website or call Member Services. | |
| MEMBER NUMBERS | [Member Services: 1-833-230-2099] 24 Hour Nurse Advice Line: 1-833-687-7378] [TTY Service for Hearing Impaired: 711] [Vision [Ped Only] EyeMed 1-833-337-3129] [Hearing TruHearing 1-866-202-2561] [Fitness Active&Fit 1-877-771-2746] |
| PROVIDER INFO | [Provider Services: 1-833-230-2101] [ESI: 1-866-900-0476] [RxBin: 003858 RxPCN: A4 RxGrp: RXINN04] [Medical Claims: PO. Box 36, Dayton, OH 45401-0036] |

ID Card Elements

- **Member plan** – Member's plan choice will be included in this area, including vision coverage, if applicable. If the plan name includes "Vision & Fitness" this is your indication that the plan includes these benefits for the adult members.
- **Member** – This is the name of the plan holder.
- **Member ID** – This is the ID number + suffix for the plan holder.
- **Health plan number**
- **Payer ID number**
- **Copay amounts** – for office, emergency room, specialist and urgent care visits.
- **Dependents** – This is the member specific suffix & name. When checking eligibility and/or submitting claims for dependents, please ensure you replace the subscriber suffix (last 2 digits, usually 00) of the Member ID number with the dependent suffix from the ID card.
- **Member Services phone number**
- **24-Hour Nurse Advice Line**
- **Provider Services phone number**
- **Benefit manager information** – CareSource partners with several benefit managers to provide our members with the best service possible in specific benefit categories. This section identifies the benefit category, company name and contact number. Please ensure that when referring members for these related services, you are leveraging these resources.
- **Address to submit medical claims**
- **Deductibles and Maximum Out of Pocket (MOOP)** – These are listed as the individual amount for plans with only a single member and the family amount for plans with multiple members. Members will be only responsible for satisfying their individual deductible or MOOP which is half of the family amount.
- **Pharmacy numbers**



New Member Welcome Kits

Once a member has paid to effectuate their coverage, each household receives a new member kit containing two or more ID cards that include each family member who has joined CareSource.

New Member Welcome Kit Elements

- A welcome letter
- A member handbook and an Evidence of Individual Coverage and Health Insurance Contract, which explain plan services and benefits and how to access them
- Prior authorization list
- Schedule of Benefits which explains deductibles, copays, coinsurance and out-of-pocket limits for essential health benefits
- A postcard with which the member can request a Provider Directory
- A flier describing supplemental benefits

Members are referred to the Provider Directory, which lists providers and facilities participating with CareSource. A current list of providers can be found at any time on CareSource's website, **CareSource.com** > Members > Tools & Resources > [Find a Doctor](#).

Member Disenrollment

Members may disenroll from CareSource for a number of reasons. Disenrollment may be initiated by the member, CareSource or the Health Insurance Marketplace.

Member Grace Period

Members have a federally mandated 90-day grace period if they are receiving advanced premium tax credit (APTC), or a 31-day grace period if they are not receiving APTC in which to make their payment.

- This is not applicable for their initial payment.
- For APTC-receiving members: 30 days after their due date, CareSource will flag the member in the eligibility file on the Provider Portal, suspend pharmacy benefits and pend claims rendered.
- For non-APTC members: The day after their due date, CareSource will flag the member in the eligibility file and on the Provider Portal, suspend pharmacy benefits and pend claims rendered.

If members bring their account into good standing before the expiration of the grace period, pharmacy benefits will start again, and pended claims will be processed.

Member Termination

After the grace period has expired, the member is terminated for non-payment of premium.

- CareSource will retroactively terminate the member to either the last day of the first month of the grace period (APTC) or the last paid date (non-APTC).
- CareSource will then deny claims that are pended during the grace period and reserves the right to recover any amounts paid in this period.



COVERED SERVICES AND EXCLUSIONS

This section describes some of the services and exclusions to benefits that are provided to our CareSource members. CareSource requires all covered services to be medically necessary. Covered services may require PA. Please visit the Provider Portal at **CareSource.com** > Login > [Provider Portal](#) for the most up-to-date list of services that require PA.

Covered Services

CareSource's Marketplace product is compliant with the Affordable Care Act in terms of benefit offerings and cost share applications, as well as providing supplemental Adult vision and fitness benefits. See our EOCs and Schedules of Benefits at **CareSource.com** > Plans > [Plan Documents](#) for more detail. Please refer to our website and the “**Referrals and Prior Authorizations**” chapter of this manual on **page 31** for more information about referral and PA procedures.

Benefit Limits

In general, most benefit limits for services and procedures follow state and federal guidelines. Benefits limited to a certain number of visits per year are based on a calendar year (January through December). Please check to be sure the member has not already exhausted benefit limits before providing services by checking our Provider Portal or calling Provider Services at **1-833-230-2101**.

Any services rendered in excess of the benefit limits will be denied.



Prior Authorizations and Determinations

Some services require PA. When a request for authorization is submitted, CareSource will notify the provider and member in writing of the determination. If a service cannot be covered, the letter from CareSource will include the reason that the service cannot be covered and how to request an appeal, if desired.

Providers and members may have the right to appeal the decision. Please see the “**Provider Appeal Procedures**” chapter of this manual on **page 76** for information on how to file an appeal.

Peer-to-Peer Review for Adverse Benefit Determinations

- a. As used in this section, “necessary information” includes the results of any face-to-face clinical evaluation, second opinion or other clinical information that is directly applicable to the requested service that may be required.
- b. If a health plan makes an adverse determination on a PA request by a covered individual’s health care provider, the health plan must offer the covered individual’s health care provider the option to request a peer-to-peer review by a clinical peer concerning the adverse determination.
- c. A covered individual’s health care provider may request a peer-to-peer review by a clinical peer either in writing or electronically.
- d. If a peer-to-peer review by a clinical peer is requested under this section:
 1. the health plan’s clinical peer and the covered individual’s health care provider or the health care provider’s designee shall make every effort to provide the peer-to-peer review no later than five (5) business days from the date of receipt by the health plan of the request by the covered individual’s health care provider for a peer-to-peer review if the health plan has received the necessary information for the peer to peer review; and
 2. the health plan must have the peer-to-peer review conducted between the clinical peer and the covered individual’s health care provider or the provider’s designee.

Providers and members may have the right to appeal the decision. Please see the “**Provider Appeal Procedures**” chapter of this manual on **page 76** for information on how to file an appeal.

Pediatric Vision

All CareSource pediatric members have access to vision benefits through the **end of the month** in which they turn 19.

Pediatric vision services are provided exclusively through our Vision Benefits Manager, EyeMed, and the benefit covers eye exams (no cost), eyewear including glasses or contact lenses, as well as other value add services through the relationship such as low vision exams/aids and discounts on a wide array of materials and services. For coverage to apply to the vision services, they must see an EyeMed provider.



Routine Hearing Exams and Hearing Aids

All CareSource members have access to no cost routine hearing exams and Nevada members also have a hearing aid benefit. While not a covered benefit, members can access reduced cost hearing aids through our relationship with TruHearing. Members must contact TruHearing's member services to establish a relationship with a hearing specialist who will guide them through finding a provider, setting up an appointment, as well as supporting them through any follow up processes to ensure satisfaction.

For coverage to apply to these services, they must see a TruHearing provider.

Optional Adult Vision and Fitness

CareSource's Vision and Fitness benefits provide adult members the ability to access the following benefits:

Vision – Adult routine vision benefits are available exclusively through our vision benefits manager, EyeMed, and include eye exams (cost share may apply), eyewear including contact lenses, as well as other value add services through the relationship such as low vision exams/aids and discounts on a wide array of materials and services. Eyewear (glasses and contacts) are subject to a \$250 allowance each calendar year with no copay/deductible.

Fitness – CareSource is proud to offer our adult members (aged 18 and above) access to the Active&Fit® program with no member cost share. The Active&Fit program provides your patient with no-cost access to their network of participating fitness centers and select YMCAs.

Alternatively, members can have access to up to two home fitness kits per benefit year, online tools such as fitness center search, a quarterly online newsletter, online classes and more. *The Active&Fit program is provided by American Specialty Health Fitness, Inc., a subsidiary of American Specialty Health Incorporated (ASH). Active&Fit is a trademark of ASH and used with permission herein.*





MEMBER SUPPORT SERVICES

CareSource provides a wide variety of support and educational services to our members to facilitate their use and understanding of our plan's services, promote preventive health care and encourage appropriate use of available services. We are always happy to work in partnership with you to meet the health care needs of our members.

CareSource Member Services

Representatives are available by telephone Monday through Friday, except on observed holidays.

Please visit **CareSource.com** > About Us > [Contact Us](#) for the holiday schedule or contact Provider Services for more information.

Members access Member Services by calling our Member Services department at **1-833-230-2099** (TTY: 711) from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. PT, and telling our interactive voice response (IVR) system what their question is regarding.

Benefit Manager Member Services

Members access our Benefit Manager member services by calling the toll free numbers listed below. Benefit Managers are able to provide answers to questions on overall services, coverages, claims, in-network providers, and more.

- Active&Fit (American Specialty Health): 1-877-771-2746
- Routine Vision Services and Glasses/Contacts (EyeMed): 1-833-337-3129
- Routine Hearing Services and Hearing Aids (TruHearing): 1-866-202-2561



24-Hour Nurse Advice Line

Members can call our nurse advice line 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The 24-Hour Nurse Advice Line gives members unlimited access to talk with a caring and experienced staff of registered nurses about symptoms or health questions.

Nurses assess members' symptoms using the Schmitt-Thompson Clinical Content to determine the urgency of the complaint and direct members to the most appropriate place for treatment. Schmitt-Thompson is the "Gold Standard" in telephone triage, offering evidence-based triage protocols and decision support.

Our nurses educate members about the benefits of preventive care and make referrals to our care management programs. The nurses promote the relationship with the PCP by explaining the importance of their role in coordinating the member's care.

Key features of this service include nurses who:

- Assess member symptoms
- Advise of the appropriate level of care
- Answer health-related questions and concerns
- Provide information about other services
- Encourage the PCP-member relationship

Members can access the nurse advice line anytime, night or day. The phone number is on the member's ID card.

Care Management/Outreach

CareSource provides the services of care management physical and behavioral health nurses, behavioral health professionals and outreach specialists to provide one-on-one, personal interaction with patients. We have pharmacists on staff to assist with medication reconciliation and to function as a part of the interdisciplinary care team. Please feel free to refer patients who might need individual attention to help them manage special health care problems. Care management can provide a broad spectrum of educational and follow-up services for your patients. It can be especially effective for reducing admission and re-admission risks, managing anticipatory transitions, encouraging non-compliant patients, reinforcing medical instructions and assessing social needs, as well as educating pregnant patients and first-time mothers on the importance of prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum and infant care. We also offer individualized education and support for many chronic diseases. You can refer a member to Care Management by calling **1-833-230-2037**.

Providers can also make referrals to Care Management on behalf of the member by submitting the request in the CareSource [Provider Portal](#).



Care Management Services

CareSource's Care Management program is a fully integrated health management program that strives for member understanding of and satisfaction with their medical care. We promote integration of physical and behavioral health to manage the member across the continuum of care with a holistic approach. More importantly, it's designed to support the care and treatment you provide to your patient. We stress the importance of establishment of the medical home, identification of barriers and keeping appointments. This one-on-one personal interaction with outreach specialists, behavioral health professionals and nurse care managers provides a comprehensive safety net to support your patient through initial and ongoing assessment activities, coordination of care and education to promote self-management and healthy lifestyle decisions. In addition, we help connect your patient with additional community resources, such as housing and food resources. Our Care Management team can also assist members and providers with discharge planning for inpatient stays or other transitions of care.

We offer individualized education and support for many conditions and needs, including:

- Asthma
- Diabetes
- Heart disease
- Depression
- High blood pressure and cholesterol
- Low back pain
- Pregnancy
- Weight loss

CareSource encourages you to take an active role in your patients' Care Management programs and participate in the development of individualized care plans to help meet their needs. Together, we can make a difference.

MyResources

CareSource is excited to offer an interactive tool to help connect members to local resources! The MyResources Tool connects members with local low-cost and no-cost community-based programs and social services.

Members will find access to:

- Food
- Shelter
- Health care
- Work
- Financial support
- And more

Members can log into their [CareSource MyLife](#) account to learn more or call CareSource Member Services at: **1-833-230-2099** (TTY: 711).



Health Needs Assessment & Screening

CareSource asks that all members complete the Health Needs Assessment (HNA). Through a few questions about the member's health and well-being, CareSource can help identify health, housing, education and employment concerns where we may be able to help.

CareSource wants members to take the HNA when they join CareSource and each year after. Members answer questions about their health and habits. This tool helps identify members' health needs. It shows CareSource how they can help members get and stay healthier.

Completing the HNA is simple. Members can complete the HNA in one of the following ways:

1. Call our Member Assessment Team at **1-833-230-2011 (TTY: 711)** Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. PT
2. Visit **MyLife.CareSource.com**.
3. New members can complete the printed copy of the HNA included with their new member packet. It can be returned in the enclosed self-addressed, postage paid envelope

Tobacco Cessation Program

In an effort to help members maintain a healthy lifestyle, CareSource would like to remind providers of resources available for tobacco cessation. This includes not using tobacco products as well as prevention. The Tobacco Quitline aims to increase members' knowledge of the risks associated with tobacco use and the benefits of cessation. The program provides regular health coaching as well as information on how to obtain pharmacotherapy, from a provider, to assist with quitting. For more information, please contact the Tobacco Quitline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (800-784-8669).

Mom and Baby Beginnings and NICU Care Management

CareSource's maternity and neonatal care management program employs a multi-disciplinary team with extensive expertise in obstetrics and neonatal intensive care (OB/NICU). Our dedicated team includes nurses, nurse practitioners, social workers, behavioral health specialists and lactation consultants, all specializing in maternity and NICU care.

Specialized nurses are available to support pregnant members and medically complex newborns by collaborating closely with both providers and families. Our staff's expertise emphasizes patient education and care coordination, ensuring direct communication with members and health care providers.

All pregnant members receive educational materials and ongoing support throughout their pregnancy and fourth trimester. For those with high-risk pregnancies, we offer enhanced support that addresses physical health, behavioral health and social determinants of health (SDOH). Members in care management benefit from personalized perinatal education throughout their pregnancy and postpartum period.

Referrals to the Mom and Baby Beginnings program can be made via phone at **1-833-230-2034** or email at **MBB@CareSource.com**.



Disease Management Program

Our free Disease Management Program helps our members find a path to better health through information, resources and support.

We help our members through:

- The MyHealth online program for members 18+ to participate in a journey to improve their health
- The Interactive Health Library offers self-service access to search for health and well-being topics, quizzes and more.
- Coordination with outreach teams such as wellness advocates and health coaches
- One-to-one care management

Members with specific chronic conditions such as asthma, diabetes and hypertension are identified by criteria or triggers such as emergency room visits, hospital admissions and the health assessment. These members are automatically sent program communications that encourage the member to log into their CareSource MyLife app. The materials are available in English and Spanish. Any member may self-refer or be referred into the Disease Management Program to receive condition-specific information or outreach. If a member does not wish to receive newsletters or outreach, they can call Member Services at **1-833-230-2099**.

Benefits to Members and Health Partners

Members identified in the Disease Management Program receive help finding the appropriate level of care for their condition, and they are encouraged to actively participate in the patient-provider relationship. The program improves the percentage of CareSource members who receive their recommended screenings.

If you have a patient with asthma, diabetes or hypertension who you believe would benefit from this program and is not currently enrolled, please call **1-844-438-9498**.

Emergency Department Diversion Program

CareSource is committed to making sure our members access the most appropriate health care services at the appropriate time for their needs. Members are informed to call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department (ED) if they feel they have an emergency. CareSource covers all emergency services for our members.

We instruct members to call their PCP or the 24-Hour Nurse Advice Line if they are unsure if they need to go to an ED. CareSource also educates members on the appropriate use of urgent care facilities and which urgent care sites they can access. Please see the **“Primary Care Providers”** chapter of this manual on **page 80** for more information.

Member ED utilization is tracked closely. If there is frequent ED utilization, members are referred to our Care Management and Outreach department for analysis or intervention. Intervention includes education, as well as assistance with removing any identified health care access barriers. We appreciate your cooperation in educating your patients on the appropriate utilization of emergency services.



Interpreter Services

CareSource offers over-the-phone language interpreters for members who need assistance to communicate with CareSource. These services are available at no cost to the member.

CareSource requires providers, at their own expense, to offer sign and language interpreters for members who are hearing impaired, do not speak English or have limited English-speaking ability. These services should be available at no cost to the member. You are also required to identify the need for interpreter services for your CareSource patients and offer assistance to them appropriately. We can provide, at no charge, some printed materials in other languages or formats, such as large print, or we can explain materials orally, if needed.

Immunization Schedule

Immunizations are an important part of preventive care for children and should be administered during well-child exams as needed. CareSource endorses the same recommended childhood immunization schedule that is approved by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). This schedule is updated annually, and the most current updates are located on www.aap.org. Many of these services are covered by CareSource's Marketplace plans.

Immunization Codes

Effective October 1, 2015, CareSource requires providers to use ICD-10-CM codes and CPT codes on claims. Please refer to the code tables located on the CMS website at www.cms.gov/medicare/coding-billing/icd-10-codes. You can also get CMS coding guidelines at www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/Downloads/2016-ICD-10-CM-Guidelines.pdf.

Health Education

CareSource members receive health information from CareSource through a variety of communication vehicles including brochures, phone calls and personal interaction. CareSource also sends preventive care reminder messages to members via mail and automated outreach messaging.



MEMBER GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS PROCEDURES

Please Note: If a provider files an appeal related to a member's adverse benefit determination, the member appeals procedures below apply. In order for a provider to file an appeal regarding an adverse benefit determination, written consent from the member is required. **Please see the “Provider Appeals Procedures” chapter on page 76 for more information on submitting an appeal related to a claim.**

Members may contact Member Services at **1-833-230-2099** (TTY: 711) with any questions they have about benefits, including any questions about coverage and benefit levels, annual deductibles, coinsurance, copayment and annual maximum amounts out-of-pocket; specific claims or services they have received; our network and our authorization requirements.

We have implemented the grievance process, the appeal process and the external review process to provide fair, reasonable and timely solutions to complaints that members may have concerning the plan, benefit determinations, coverage and eligibility issues or the quality of care rendered by network providers.



The Grievance Process

We have put in place a grievance process for the quick resolution of grievances submitted by members that are unrelated to benefits, benefit denials and/or health care services in general. For the purposes of this grievance process, we define a grievance as any dissatisfaction expressed, orally or in writing, by the member or their authorized representative regarding:

1. The availability, delivery, appropriateness or quality of health care services;
2. The handling of claims payments for health care services;
3. Matters pertaining to the contractual relationship between CareSource and the member or
4. CareSource's decision to rescind member coverage under the plan.

If members have a grievance concerning the plan, they may contact us by sending a letter at the following address:

CareSource Marketplace
Attn: NV Marketplace Member Appeals
P.O. Box 1947
Dayton, OH 45401-1947

Members may also submit a grievance by calling us at **1-833-230-2099** (TTY: 711). They may arrange to meet with us in person to discuss their grievance.

We will acknowledge all grievances submitted by the member or their authorized representative, orally or in writing, within three (3) business days of our receipt of the grievance.

We will investigate, resolve and make a decision regarding the grievance within no more than 30 business days for Nevada. We will send the member and/or their authorized representative a letter explaining the plan's resolution of the grievance within five (5) business days after completing our investigation.

If the member or their authorized representative is unsatisfied with our decision regarding the grievance, they may appeal our grievance decision, orally or in writing, within 180 days of receiving notice of our decision. We will acknowledge receipt of the appeal within three (3) business days after receiving the appeal request. The appeal will be resolved no later than 30 days for Nevada members.

Members or their authorized representatives have 180 calendar days after they receive the notice of an adverse benefit determination to file an appeal with us. The appeal may be filed orally or in writing for Nevada. This request may be submitted by the member or their authorized representative. Authorized representatives must obtain written approval from the member to file appeals. The timing of decisions and notifications related to such appeals are provided directly below.

Adverse Benefit Determination Appeals

If we make an adverse benefit determination, we will provide the member or their authorized representative with a notice of an adverse benefit determination, as described above.

If a member or their authorized representative wishes to appeal a denied pre-service request for benefits, a post-service claim or a rescission of coverage as described below, they or their authorized representative must submit an appeal orally or in writing within one hundred eighty (180) calendar days of receiving the adverse benefit determination notice. The member or their authorized representative does not need to submit Appeals for claims involving emergent care in writing.



The appeal request should include:

1. The covered person's name and identification number as shown on the ID card;
2. The provider's name;
3. The date of the medical service;
4. The reason the member or their authorized representative disagrees with the denial and
5. Any documentation or other written information to support the request.

If filing an appeal on behalf of a member or for pre-service issues, the member's written consent, which must be specific to the service being appealed, is only valid for that appeal and must be signed by the member.

Please Note: You can use the Consent for Provider to File an Appeal on Patient/Member's Behalf form to record this consent. Approval of the authorization does not constitute a corrected claim. The claim will need to be corrected and resubmitted, which may also require the claim to be disputes and/or appealed.

The member or their authorized representative may send a written request for an Appeal to:

CareSource Marketplace
Attn: NV Marketplace Member Appeals
P.O. Box 1947
Dayton, OH 45401-1947

The member or their authorized representative may also submit an adverse benefit determination appeal by calling us at **1-833-230-2099** (TTY: 711).

The plan offers one (1) level of appeal. Within three (3) business days after we receive an oral or written appeal of an adverse benefit determination, we will acknowledge to the appealing party, orally or in writing, the date the plan received the appeal of the adverse benefit determination notice. For Nevada members, the Plan has 30 days after the complaint or appeal is filed to complete the appeal process. We will send the member and/or their authorized representative written notice of the resolution of the appeal within five (5) business days after completing the investigation. The appeal will be reviewed by a panel of qualified individuals who were not involved in the matter giving rise to the appeal or in the initial investigation of the appeal.

The member and/or their authorized representative have the right to review their claim file and present evidence and testimony as part of the appeal process. We will provide the member and/or their authorized representative, free of charge, with all documents relevant to their claim and appeal, as well as any new or additional evidence considered, relied upon, or generated by the panel in connection with the claim. Such evidence will be provided as soon as possible and sufficiently in advance of the date on which the notice of our decision is to be provided, in order to give the member a reasonable opportunity to respond prior to that date. Additional information for the appeal should be provided as soon as possible and at least 5 business days before the appeal review panel meeting.

Before we may issue our final decision regarding the member's appeal based on new or additional rationale, the member and/or their authorized representative will be provided, free of charge, with the rationale. This rationale will be provided as soon as possible and sufficiently in advance of the date on which the notice of our decision is required to be provided, in order to give the member and/or their authorized representative a reasonable opportunity to respond prior to that date.



We will provide continued coverage to the member pending the outcome of the appeal. For appeals concerning concurrent care claims, benefits for an ongoing course of treatment will not be reduced or terminated without providing advance notice to the member and/or their authorized representative and an opportunity for advance review.

Separate schedules apply to the timing of claims appeals, depending on the type of claim being appealed. The time frames which you and CareSource are required to follow are provided below.

Review Request for a Claim Involving Emergent Care

Appeals concerning decisions related to a review request for a claim involving emergent care are referred directly to an expedited appeal review process for investigation and resolution. See the **“Expedited Review of Internal Appeals”** section for additional information concerning the timing of the resolution of such appeals.

Members and/or their authorized representatives do not need to submit an appeal of an adverse benefit determination related to emergent care in writing. Members and/or their authorized representatives should call CareSource as soon as possible to appeal a decision related to a claim involving emergent care.

Pre-Service Request for Benefit

Members and/or their authorized representatives must appeal an adverse benefit determination related to pre-service requests for benefits no later than 180 calendar days after receiving the Adverse Benefit Determination notice. We must notify the member and/or their authorized representative of our benefit determination within 30 calendar days after receiving the request for appeal.

Post-Service Claims

Members and/or their authorized representatives must appeal an adverse benefit determination related to post-service requests for benefits no later than 180 calendar days after receiving the Adverse Benefit Determination notice. We must notify the member and/or their authorized representatives of our benefit determination within 30 calendar days after receiving the request for the appeal.

Concurrent Services Requests

Appeals relating to ongoing emergencies or denials of continued hospital stays (concurrent care claims involving emergent care) are referred directly to an expedited appeal process for investigation and resolution. See the **“Expedited Review of Internal Appeals”** section below for additional information concerning the timing of the resolution of such appeals. Appeals for concurrent care claims (non-emergent) will be concluded in accordance with the medical immediacy of the case.

Notice of our final adverse benefit determination of the appeal will include the medical and contractual reasons for the resolution; clinical basis for the decision; notice of the member's right to further remedies under law, including the right to an external review by an IRO; and the department, address and telephone number through which the member and/or their authorized representative may contact a qualified representative to obtain more information about the decision or the member's right to appeal.



Expedited Review of Internal Appeal

Expedited Review of an internal appeal may be started orally, in writing or by other reasonable means available to the member. The treating physician may also submit an expedited request on behalf of the member when waiting the standard time frame may risk the member's life, health or ability to gain or maintain maximum function. We will complete expedited review of an appeal as soon as possible given the medical needs, but no later than 72 hours after our receipt of the request and we will communicate our decision by telephone to the member or the member's authorized representative. We will also provide written notice of our determination to the member, the authorized representative or the requesting physician and the facility rendering the service.

Members may request an expedited review for:

- Any pre-service request for medical care or treatment with respect to which the application of the time periods for making non-urgent care determinations:
 - Could seriously jeopardize the member's life or health or the member's ability to regain maximum function, or,
 - In the opinion of a physician with knowledge of the member's medical condition, would subject the member to severe pain that cannot be adequately managed without the care or treatment that is the subject of the claim.
- Except as provided above, a pre-service request involving urgent care services will be determined by an individual acting on behalf of the plan, applying the judgment of a prudent layperson who possesses an average knowledge of health and medicine.
- Any pre-service request that a physician with knowledge of the member's medical condition determines is a claim involving urgent care.

Exhaustion of Internal Appeals Process

The internal appeal process must be exhausted prior to initiating an external review, except in the following instances:

- We agree to waive the exhaustion requirement.
- The member did not receive a written decision regarding our internal appeal within the required time frame.
- We failed to meet all requirements of the internal appeal process unless the failure:
 - Was minor
 - Does not cause or is not likely to cause prejudice or harm to the member
 - Was for good cause and beyond our control
 - Is not reflective of a pattern or practice of non-compliance
 - An expedited external review is sought simultaneously with an expedited internal review



External Reviews

CareSource, as a health plan, must provide a process that allows the member or their authorized representative the right to request an independent external review of an adverse benefit determination. An adverse benefit determination is a decision by us to deny benefits because services are not covered, are excluded or limited under the plan or because the member is not eligible to receive the benefit. An adverse benefit determination may involve an issue of medical necessity, appropriateness, health care setting or level of care or effectiveness. An adverse benefit determination can also be a decision to deny health benefit plan coverage or to rescind coverage.

Opportunity for External Review

An external review will be conducted by an IRO. The member will not pay for the external review. There is no minimum cost of health care services denied in order to qualify for an external review.

The member is entitled to an external review by an IRO in the following instances:

- An adverse utilization review determination made by us or our agent regarding a service proposed by a treating physician as outlined in the Managed Care section above.
- An adverse determination of medical necessity.
- Determination that the proposed service is experimental or investigational.
- Our decision to rescind the member's coverage under the plan.

There are two (2) types of IRO reviews: standard and expedited.

Standard External Review

Standard external reviews and external investigation/experimental reviews are normally completed within 45 business days after the external review is filed. The IRO will notify us and member of its determination of a standard external review within 48 hours after making the determination.

Expedited External Review

An expedited review for urgent medical situations is normally completed within 72 hours after the expedited external review is filed. The IRO will notify us and the member of its determination of an expedited external review within 24 hours after making the determination.

An external review is considered an urgent medical situation and qualifies for expedited external review if the external review is related to an illness, disease, condition, injury or a disability that would seriously jeopardize the member's:

- Life or health
- Ability to reach and maintain maximum function

The expedited external review process can also occur at the same time as an expedited appeal for a claim involving emergent care and a concurrent care claim.

Additionally, the member may request an expedited external review orally or by electronic means under this section if you, as the member's provider, certify that the requested health care service in question would be significantly less effective if not promptly initiated.



Please Note: Upon receipt of new information from the member that is relevant to our resolution of our adverse benefit determination and was not considered by us, we shall reconsider our adverse benefit determination, and the IRO shall cease the external review process until the reconsideration is complete. If the information submitted for reconsideration is related to an illness, disease, condition, injury or disability that would seriously jeopardize the member's life or health or the ability to reach and maintain maximum function, we will render a decision within 72 hours after the information is submitted. If the information submitted for reconsideration is not related to an illness, disease, condition, injury or disability that would seriously jeopardize the member's life or health or the ability to reach and maintain maximum function, we will render a decision within 15 days after the information is submitted. If our reconsideration is still adverse to the member, the member may request the IRO resume the external review process.

Please Note: If the member has the right to an external review under Medicare (42 U.S.C. 1395, et seq.), then the member may not request an external review of an adverse benefit determination under the procedures outlined in the plan.

Independent Review Organization Review and Decision

The IRO must consider all documents and information considered by us in making the adverse benefit determination, any information submitted by the member and other information such as: the member's medical records, the recommendations of the member's attending health care professional, consulting reports from appropriate health care professionals, the terms of coverage under the plan, the most appropriate practice guidelines, clinical review criteria used by the plan or our utilization review organization and the opinions of the IRO's clinical reviewers. We agree to cooperate with the IRO throughout the external review process by promptly providing any information requested by the IRO. The IRO is not bound by any previous decision reached by us.

The member is also required to cooperate with the IRO by providing any requested medical information or by authorizing the release of necessary medical information. The member is permitted to submit additional information relating to the proposed service throughout the external review process. The member is also allowed to use the assistance of other individuals, including physicians, attorneys, friends and family members throughout the external review process.

The IRO will make its decision within 45 days after a standard external review request is filed or within 72 hours after an expedited external review request is filed. The IRO will provide the member and us with written notice of its decision within 48 hours after making its determination for a standard external review and within 24 hours after making its determination for an expedited external review.

Request for External Review

The member or their authorized representative must request an external review through us within 120 days (four months) of the date of final adverse benefit determination notice. All requests must be in writing, except for a request for an expedited external review. Expedited external reviews may be requested electronically or orally.



Independent Review Organization Assignment

When we initiate an external review by an IRO, we will select an IRO from a list of IROs that are certified by the Nevada Department of Insurance. We select a different IRO for each request for external review filed and rotate the choice of IRO among all certified IROs before repeating a selection. The IRO will assign a medical review professional who is board-certified in the applicable specialty to resolve the external review. An IRO that has a material professional, familial, financial or other affiliation or conflict of interest with us, our management, the member, you, the proposed drug, therapy or device or the facility will not be selected to conduct the review.

An external review request form must be filed with the Office for Consumer Health Assistance (OCHA) within four (4) months after receiving a notice from the health plan of a denial of payment or request for coverage of a health care service or treatment. This form is available at: adsd.nv.gov/Programs/CHA/ExtRev/External_Review/

The form is submitted to:
State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
Office for Consumer Health Assistance
Bureau for Hospital Patients
7150 Pollock Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119

Phone: (702) 486-3587
Toll Free: 1-888-333-1597
Fax: (702) 486-3586
Email: cha@govcha.nv.org

Binding Nature of External Review Decision

An external review decision by the IRO is binding on us. The decision is also binding on the member, except to the extent that the member may have other remedies available under applicable state or federal law. The member may file no more than one external review request regarding our adverse benefit determination.

An IRO is immune from civil liability for actions taken in good faith in connection with an external review. The work product and/or determination issued by the IRO will be admissible in any judicial or administrative proceeding. The documents and other information created and reviewed by the IRO or medical review professional in connection with the external review are not public records and must be treated in accordance with confidentiality requirements of state and federal law.

Member Questions

Members may contact Member Services at:

CareSource Marketplace
Attn: NV Marketplace Member Appeals
P.O. Box 1947
Dayton, OH 45401

1 833 230-2099
(TTY: 711)



Definitions

For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

Adverse Benefit Determination means an adverse benefit determination as defined in 29 CFR § 2560.503-1, as well as any rescission of coverage, as described in 45 CFR § 147.128 (whether or not, in connection with the rescission, there is an adverse effect on any particular benefit at that time). An adverse benefit determination is a decision by CareSource to deny, reduce or terminate a requested health care service or benefit in whole or in part, including all of the following:

- A determination that the health care service does not meet the plan's requirements for medical necessity, appropriateness, health care setting, level of care or effectiveness, including experimental or investigational treatments
- A determination of your eligibility for benefits under the plan
- A determination that a health care service is not a covered service
- The imposition of an exclusion or other limitation on benefits that would otherwise be covered
- A determination not to issue coverage, if applicable to this plan
- A determination to rescind coverage under the plan regardless of whether there is an adverse effect on any particular benefit at that time.

A Claim Involving Emergent or Urgent Care means:

- Any claim for medical care or treatment with respect to which the application of the time periods for making non-emergent care determinations:
 - Could seriously jeopardize your life or health or your ability to regain maximum function, or
 - In the opinion of a physician with knowledge of your medical condition, would subject you to severe pain that cannot be adequately managed without the care or treatment that is the subject of the claim.

Appeal (or internal appeal) means the review by the plan of an adverse benefit determination, as required in this section.

External Review means a review of an adverse benefit determination (including a final internal adverse benefit determination) conducted pursuant to applicable State or federal law.

Final Internal Adverse Benefit Determination means an adverse benefit determination that has been upheld by the plan at the completion of the internal appeals process described in this section.

Independent Review Organization ("IRO") means an entity that conducts independent external reviews of adverse benefit determinations and final internal adverse benefit determinations pursuant to this section.



CARESOURCE MEMBER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

As a CareSource provider, you are required to respect the rights of our members. CareSource members are informed of their rights and responsibilities via their member handbook. All members are encouraged to take an active and participatory role in their own health and the health of their families.

Member rights and responsibilities, as stated in the member handbook, are as follows:

- Receive information about CareSource, our services, our network providers and member rights and responsibilities.
- Be treated with respect and dignity by CareSource personnel, network providers and other health care professionals.
- Privacy and confidentiality for treatments, tests and procedures you receive.
- Participate with your doctor in making decisions about your health care.
- Candidly discuss with your doctor the appropriate or medically necessary treatment options for your conditions, regardless of cost or benefit coverage.
- Voice complaints or appeals about the plan or the care it provides.
- Make recommendations regarding the plan's member rights and responsibilities policy.
- Choose an advance directive to designate the kind of care you wish to receive should you be unable to express your wishes.

Members of CareSource are also informed of the following responsibilities:

- Supply information needed, to the extent possible, that the organization and its doctors need in order to provide care.
- Follow the plans and instructions for care that you have agreed to with doctors.
- Understand your health problems and participate in developing mutually agreed-upon treatment goals, to the degree possible.
- Be enrolled and pay any required premiums.
- Pay an annual deductible, copayments and coinsurance.



- Pay the cost of limited and excluded services.
- Choose network providers and network pharmacies.
- Show your ID card to make sure you receive full benefits under the plan.
- Report suspected fraudulent behavior to CareSource.

HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices

Members are notified of CareSource's privacy practices as required by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). CareSource's Notice of Privacy Practices includes a description of how and when member information is used and disclosed within and outside of the CareSource organization. The notice also informs members on how they may obtain a statement of disclosures or request their medical claim information. CareSource takes measures across our organization internally to protect oral, written and electronic personally identifiable health information, specifically, protected health information (PHI) of members.

As a provider, please remember to follow the same HIPAA regulations as a covered entity and only make reasonable and appropriate uses and disclosures of protected health information for treatment, payment and health care operations.

Please remember that disclosures of a patient's personal health information are permitted for treatment, payment or health care operations in compliance with the HIPAA regulation 45 CFR 164. For example, providers may disclose patient information to CareSource for quality assessment and improvement activities, population-based activities relating to improving health or reducing health care costs or case management and care coordination, among others. Thank you for your assistance in providing requested information to CareSource in a timely manner.

When a patient has a sensitive health diagnosis (e.g., treatment for drug/alcohol use, genetic testing, HIV/AIDS, mental health or sexually transmitted diseases), you should verify if the patient has granted consent to share health information.

Log in to the CareSource Provider Portal at **CareSource.com** > Login > [Provider Portal](#) and search for the CareSource patient using the Member Eligibility option. A message displays if the patient has not consented to sharing sensitive health information. If the patient has not consented, you may not have access to all of the patient's health information on the Provider Portal.

Please encourage your CareSource patients who have not consented to complete a HIPAA Authorization Form so that all providers involved in their care can effectively coordinate their care. This form is located on **CareSource.com** > Members > Tools & Resources > [Forms](#). The HIPAA Authorization Form can also be used to designate a person who can speak on the patient's behalf. This designated representative can be a relative, a friend, a physician, an attorney or some other person that the patient specifies.



AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The ADA prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities in the areas of employment, public accommodations, state and local government services and telecommunications. Both public and private hospitals and health care facilities must provide their services to people with disabilities in a nondiscriminatory manner. To do so, providers may have to modify their policies and procedures, provide auxiliary aids and services for effective communication, remove barriers from existing facilities and follow ADA accessibility standards for new construction and alteration projects. Furthermore, providers' diagnostic equipment must accommodate individuals with disabilities.

For more information about the ADA, go to www.ada.gov.



CARESOURCE HEALTH AND SOCIAL PARTNERSHIPS

CareSource is dedicated to the communities we serve and making a positive impact in the lives of our members by improving members health, removing barriers to care, supporting our organization's health access initiatives and partnering with community stakeholders to carry out this much needed work. Our enterprise CareSource Life Services department is dedicated to serving marginalized communities and making a positive impact in the lives of our member populations to eliminate health risks associated with health-related social needs. CareSource Life Services is taking an integrated approach to health access and opportunity and embedding it across CareSource. As a result, we have developed our objectives based on pillars of life services outlined below.

- **Housing:** increase the quality of safe and affordable housing, enhanced financial tools to develop and preserve housing units and improved affordability of housing
- **Food & nutrition:** regular and consistent access to healthy foods, education on nutrition and overall health impacts and addressing food deserts
- **Health Access and Opportunity:** driving partnerships with outside organizations; steer policy and advocate for change while focused on the interconnectedness of health outcomes and social factors that influence an individual's ability to achieve optimal health and well-being

We recognize language and cultural differences have a significant impact on members' health care experience and outcomes. Consistent with federal mandate 42 CFR 438.206 (2), Access and Cultural Considerations, CareSource participates in efforts to promote the delivery of services in a culturally competent manner to all members. Participating providers must also meet the requirements of this mandate and any applicable state and federal laws or regulations pertaining to provision of services and care.



CLAS Standards: National Culturally & Linguistically Appropriate Standards

CareSource adheres to the National Culturally & Linguistically Appropriate Standards (CLAS), which serve as a blueprint for health care providers and organizations to implement culturally and linguistically appropriate services. CLAS consists of 15 standards that encompass the following topic areas:

- Principal Standard: Provision of effective, equitable, understandable and respectful quality care and services that are a response to diverse cultural health beliefs and practices, preferred languages, health literacy and other communication needs
- Governance, Leadership and Workforce
- Communication and Language Assistance
- Engagement, Continuous Improvement & Accountability

Network providers must ensure that:

- Members understand that they have access to free medical interpreter services in their native language, including Sign Language. No cost TDD/TTY services are available to facilitate communication with hearing impaired members.
- Health care is provided with consideration of the members' cultural background, encompassing race/ethnicity, language and health beliefs. Cultural considerations may impact/influence member health decisions related to preventable disease or illness.
- The provider office staff makes reasonable attempts to collect race- and language-specific member data. The staff is available to answer questions and explain race/ethnicity categories to a member to ensure accurate identification of race/ethnicity for all family members.
- Treatment plans are developed based on evidence-based clinical practice guidelines with consideration of the member's race, country of origin, native language, social norms, religion, mental or physical abilities, heritage, acculturation, age, gender, sexual orientation and other characteristics that may result in a different perspective or decision-making process.
- Participating providers must also meet the requirements of all applicable state and federal laws and regulations as they pertain to provision of services and care.

CareSource prohibits its providers or partners from refusing to treat, serve or otherwise discriminate against an individual because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, gender orientation (i.e., intersex, transgender and transsexual) or disability. In consideration of cultural differences, including religious beliefs and ethical principles, CareSource will not discriminate against providers who practice within the permissions of existing protections in provider conscience laws, as outlined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

CareSource encourages our participating providers to visit the U.S Department of Health and Human Services, Cultural Competency Resources website found at: thinkculturalhealth.hhs.gov/ for toolkits and educational resources. Included on the site is a free 9-credit Continuing Medical Education (CME) course, *A Physician's Practical Guide to Culturally Competent Care*. This self-directed e-learning program equips providers to better understand and treat diverse populations.



QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

CareSource is committed to providing evidence-based care in a safe, member-centered, timely, efficient and equitable manner. The scope of our CareSource Quality Improvement (QI) Program is comprehensive and inclusive of both clinical and non-clinical services as well as health, safety and/or welfare concerns. CareSource uses a population health lens to monitor and evaluate the quality of the care and service delivered to our members emphasizing:

- Equitable delivery of service
- Accessibility and availability to medical, behavioral health and other care
- Quality of care and member safety
- Internal evaluation of program areas, including UM, Care Management and Pharmacy

Member and provider satisfaction and health outcomes are monitored through:

- Quality improvement activities
- Routine health plan reporting
- Annual Health Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) measures
- Qualified Health Plan (QHP) Enrollee Experience Survey scores
- Member feedback captured via surveys, inclusion in advisory workgroups and collection by member facing employees
- Review of accessibility and availability standards
- Utilization trends

CareSource assesses our performance against goals and objectives that are in keeping with industry standards. We complete an annual evaluation of our QI Program.

CareSource will be pursuing accreditation by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) for our Marketplace Health Insurance Plan. NCQA is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving health care quality through measurement, transparency and accountability. Achieving accreditation indicates that our service and clinical quality meet NCQA's rigorous requirements for consumer protection and quality improvement. Visit www.NCQA.org for more information.



Program Scope

CareSource supports an active, ongoing and comprehensive QI program across the enterprise.

To maintain a robust QI program, our scope includes:

- Assessing member population characteristics and needs.
- Advocating for members across settings, including review and resolution of quality-of-care issues.
- Meeting member access and availability needs for physical and behavioral health care.
- Determining interventions for HEDIS overall rate improvement to improve preventive care scores and facilitate support of members' acute and chronic health conditions and other complex health, safety or welfare needs.
- Utilizing the annual member QHP Enrollee Survey to capture member perspectives on health care quality and establishes interventions based on results to enrich member and provider experiences.
- Demonstrating enhanced care coordination and continuity across settings.
- Ensuring CareSource is effectively serving members with complex health needs.
- Evaluating practitioner adherence to clinical practice guidelines.
- Partnering collaboratively with network providers, practitioners, regulatory agencies and community agencies.
- Maintaining regulatory and accrediting agency compliance, including:
 - All federal requirements as outlined in 42 CFR Part 438, Managed Care
 - HEDIS compliance audit and performance measurement.
 - NCQA accreditation standards.

Quality Strategy

CareSource seeks to advance a culture of quality and safety that begins with our senior leadership and is cultivated throughout the organization. CareSource utilizes the Institute of Healthcare Improvement (IHI) framework developed to optimize health system performance.

Institute for Healthcare Improvement Quintuple Aim for Populations

CareSource aligns with the IHI Quintuple Aim framework to:

- Improve the member experience of care (including quality and satisfaction);
- Improve the health of populations;
- Reduce the per capita cost of health care; and
- Improve provider satisfaction (professional wellness).
- Advance health equity

In addition, CareSource utilizes Six Sigma tools, when indicated, to focus on improving member experience, member safety and ensuring our processes consistently deliver the desired results.



Quality Measures

CareSource continually assesses and analyzes the quality of care and services offered to our members. This is accomplished by using objective and systematic monitoring and evaluation to implement programs to improve outcomes. CareSource uses HEDIS® measures to monitor the quality of care delivered to members. HEDIS is one of the most widely used means of health care measurement in the United States. HEDIS is developed and maintained by NCQA. The HEDIS tool is used by America's health plans to measure important dimensions of care and service and allows for comparisons across health plans in meeting state and federal performance measures and national HEDIS benchmarks. HEDIS measures are based on evidence-based care and address the most significant areas of care. Potential quality measures for the Health Insurance Marketplace are:

- Wellness and prevention
 - Preventive screenings (breast cancer, cervical cancer and chlamydia)
 - Well-child
- Chronic disease management
 - Comprehensive diabetes care
 - Controlling high blood pressure
- Behavioral health
 - Follow-up after hospitalization for mental illness

CareSource uses the annual member survey, QHP Enrollee Survey, to capture member perspectives on health care quality. The QHP Enrollee Survey is a consumer experience survey that assesses enrollee experience with QHPs offered through Marketplaces. The survey includes a set of core questions that address key areas of care and service provided to members.

Potential QHP measures include:

- Care coordination
- Getting care quickly
- Getting needed care
- How well doctors communicate
- Ratings of all health care, health plan, personal doctor or specialists

Safety Program

CareSource recognizes that patient safety is the cornerstone of high-quality health care, contributing to the overall health and welfare of our members. Our CareSource Patient Safety Program evaluates patient safety trends with the goal of reducing avoidable harm. Our Patient Safety Program is developed in the context of our population health management approach and includes regulatory/accreditation, policies and procedures, training and implementation, continuous monitoring and program evaluation and improvement. Safety events are monitored through retrospective review of quality-of-care concerns and real-time reporting of claims data. Data analysis of our provider and health system network ensures situational risks can be identified in a timely manner, reviewed and mitigated by a proactive corrective action, or performance improvement steps.



Preventive Guidelines and Clinical Practice Guidelines

CareSource approves and adopts evidence-based nationally accepted standards and guidelines and promotes them to practitioners and members to help inform and guide clinical care provided to members. Member health resources are available on the website and cover a broad range of wellness, preventive health and chronic disease management topics. Guidelines are reviewed at least every two years or more often as appropriate and updated as necessary. They may be found at **CareSource.com** > Providers > Education > Patient Care > [Health Care Links](#). The use of these guidelines allows CareSource to measure their impact on member health outcomes. Review and approval of the guidelines are completed by the CareSource Provider Advisory Committee (PAC) and Enterprise PAC. The Quality Enterprise Committee (QEC) is notified of guideline approval. Topics for guidelines are identified through analysis of Marketplace plan members. Guidelines may include, but are not limited to:

- Behavioral health (e.g., depression)
- Adult health (e.g., hypertension and diabetes)
- Population health (e.g., obesity and maternity care)
 - Guidelines may be promoted to practitioners and providers through newsletters, our website, direct mailings, provider manual and through focused meetings with CareSource Provider Engagement Specialists. Information regarding clinical practice guidelines and other health information may be made available to members via member newsletters, the CareSource member website or upon request.

If you would like more information on CareSource QI, please call Provider Services at **1-833-230-2101**.

HEDIS® is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

Confidentiality Physicians shall prepare, maintain and retain as confidential the health records of all members receiving health care services and members' other personally identifiable health information received from CareSource, in a form and for time periods required by applicable state and federal laws, licensing requirements, accreditation and reimbursement rules and regulations to which physicians and provider are subject and in accordance with accepted practices.

Provider Performance and Profiling CareSource monitors over and underutilization of medical services. Provider profiling is done periodically to measure utilization of common inpatient and outpatient services such as preventive services. Summary reports for these measures are available to individual providers upon request, and routine periodic reporting is under development. If a provider is found to be performing below minimum care standards for participation with CareSource, this information is shared with the provider so practitioners can make positive changes in practice patterns. We work with the provider to develop an action plan for improvement. Further action may include onsite assessment, auditing medical care at specific intervals, disseminating comparative data or standards of care, meeting with physicians, probation, reporting deficiencies to appropriate authorities or termination of participation with CareSource. CareSource also works with participating providers, if necessary, to develop corrective action plans for those who do not meet the standards.



Access Standards

CareSource has a comprehensive quality program to help ensure our members receive the best possible health care services. It includes evaluation of the availability, accessibility and acceptability of services rendered to patients by participating providers. Participating providers are expected to have procedures in place to see patients within these time frames and to offer office hours to their CareSource patients that are at least the equivalent of those offered to any other patient. Please keep in mind the following access standards for differing levels of care.

Primary Care Providers

| Type of Visit | Should be seen... |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Emergency needs | Immediately upon presentation |
| Urgent care* | Not to exceed 48 hours |
| Regular and routine care | Not to exceed 15 business days |

Specialists

| Type of Visit | Should be seen... |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Emergency needs | Immediately upon presentation |
| Urgent care* | Not to exceed 48 hours |
| Regular and routine | Not to exceed 30 business days |

Behavioral Health

| Type of Visit | Should be seen... |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Emergency needs | Immediately upon presentation |
| Non-life-threatening emergency | Not to exceed 6 hours |
| Urgent care* | Not to exceed 48 hours |
| Initial visit for routine care | Not to exceed 10 business days |
| Follow-up routine care | Not to exceed 30 calendar days based off the condition |

*A member should be seen as expeditiously as the member's condition warrants based on severity of symptoms.

It is expected that if a provider is unable to see the member within the appropriate time frame, CareSource will facilitate an appointment with a participating provider or a non-participating provider, if necessary.

For PCPs only: Provide 24-hour availability to your CareSource patients by telephone. Whether through an answering machine or taped message used after hours, patients should be given the means to contact their PCP or a back-up provider to be triaged for care. It is not acceptable to use a phone message that does not provide access to you or your back-up provider and only recommends emergency room use for after hours.

For the best interest of our members and to promote their positive health care outcomes, CareSource supports and encourages continuity of care and coordination of care between medical care providers as well as between medical care providers and behavioral health providers.



Advance written notice of status changes, such as a change in address, phone or adding or deleting a provider to your practice helps us keep our records current and is critical for claims processing. Additionally, it ensures our directories are up-to-date and reduces unnecessary calls to your practice.

How to Submit Changes to CareSource

Online

Visit **CareSource.com** > Login > [Provider Portal](#)

Fax

937-396-3076

Mail

CareSource
Attn: Provider Maintenance
P.O. Box 8738
Dayton, OH 45401-8738

CareSource continually assesses and analyzes the quality of care and services offered to our members. This is accomplished by using objective and systematic monitoring and evaluation to implement programs to improve outcomes.





Quality of Care Reviews

CareSource ensures the provision of safe and quality care to members by investigating and mitigating potential quality of care concerns that include:

- Inappropriate or inconsistent treatment
- Delay in receipt of care
- Compromising member health, safety or welfare
- Having the potential to limit functional abilities on a permanent or long-term basis

To properly assess quality of care concerns, CareSource Enterprise QI initiates contact with providers to request medical records using established processes and timelines. As per our policies and provider contracts, we are authorized to ask for protected health information for health care operations, which includes quality issue reviews. Medical record requests are forwarded to providers via mail, e-mail or fax and may be returned to CareSource via these same mechanisms as detailed in the medical record request document.

All providers are expected to return medical record requests related to quality-of-care concerns within 14 days from initial receipt of the request, unless otherwise defined by program guidelines or state or federal law requirements. If a state, federal or regulatory agency, or if the health and safety of a member requires that medical records must be submitted under a shorter time frame, providers are expected to comply with the shorter turnaround time. Providers and facilities that utilize third party health information management vendors are responsible for providing medical records to CareSource or facilitating delivery of medical records to CareSource by the identified contractor. We are legally bound to interact with providers only, and CareSource is not subject to any fees charged by health information management companies for medical record retrieval or submission.

Your health partner representative may contact you if medical records are not received within the 14-day time frame to ensure you received the request. In addition, our market Chief Medical Officer may also be in contact to facilitate and ensure receipt of the required medical records to complete the quality-of-care reviews. Providers or facilities who repeatedly fail to return requested medical records are reported to the Credentialing Committee and may face other directed intervention or penalties up to and including contract termination.



PROVIDER APPEALS PROCEDURES

If in your capacity as a member provider you file an appeal on behalf of a member, please refer to the procedures set forth in this manual. Please refer to the applicable **“Member Grievances and Appeals Procedures”** chapter, starting on **page 55** for additional details.

Claim Dispute Process

If you believe a claim was processed incorrectly due to incomplete, incorrect or unclear information on the claim, you should submit a corrected claim. You do not need to file a dispute or appeal.

Claim Dispute Process for Participating and Non-Participating Providers

- Claim disputes can be submitted in writing via mail or fax or by using the CareSource Provider Portal.
- The dispute must be received by CareSource within 90 calendar days from the date of payment.
- If CareSource fails to render a determination for the dispute within 30 days after receipt, an appeal may be submitted.

Appeal of Claim Denials

If you do not agree with the decision of the processed claim or dispute, you will have 365 calendar days from the date of service, date of discharge or dispute decision unless otherwise specified in your contract to file a claim appeal. If the member is covered by a primary insurance other than CareSource, the appeal request must be received within 90 calendar days from the date of the primary payer's EOP. If the appeal is not submitted in the required time frame, the claim will not be considered, and the appeal will be denied. If the appeal is denied, providers will be notified in writing. If the appeal is approved, payment will show on the provider's EOP.

Please Note: If you believe the claim processed incorrectly due to incomplete, incorrect or unclear information on the claim, you should submit a corrected claim; you do not need to file an appeal. Providers have 365 calendar days from the date of service or discharge to submit a corrected claim.

How to Submit Appeals

Providers can submit claims through our secure Provider Portal, or in writing:

Online

Visit **CareSource.com** > Login > [Provider Portal](#)

Under the Provider Portal from the Claims menu, click on the “Claims Appeals” tab on the left. This is the preferred method of submission of appeal.



Writing

Use the **“Appeal and Claims Dispute Form”** located on our website.

Please include:

- The member’s name and the CareSource member ID number.
- The provider’s name and ID number, located in your provider welcome number.
- The code(s) and reason why the determination should be reconsidered.
- If you are submitting a timely filing appeal, you must send proof of original receipt of the appeal by fax or EDI for reconsideration.
- If the appeal is regarding a clinical edit denial, the appeal must have all the supporting documentation as to the justification of reversing the determination.

Provider Claim Submissions

Fax: 937-531-2398

Provider Claim Appeals

Fax: Toll-Free Fax Line: 855-795-0088

Fax Line: 937-531-2398

Mail: CareSource
Attn: Claim Appeals
P.O. Box 2008
Dayton, OH 45401

CareSource Provider Medical Necessity Appeals

Provider Appealing on Behalf of a Member Standard Medical Necessity Appeals of Non-Certification Determinations

An appeal is defined as a formal request by a member or provider, including facilities or other health care entities, on behalf of a member for a review of an adverse benefit determination.

Timeline for Medical Necessity Appeals

Clinical appeals can be submitted by the member or provider after receiving a letter from CareSource denying coverage. Appeals can be filed by a:

- Provider on behalf of a member with written authorization from the member – within 180 calendar days of receipt of the notice of an adverse benefit determination.
- Member – within 180 calendar days of receipt of the notice of adverse benefit determination.



Appeals Filed on Behalf of the Member

Medical necessity appeals filed by members or providers on behalf of a member must be submitted to CareSource within 180 calendar days and will be resolved within 15 calendar days of receipt or as expeditiously as the member's condition warrants for pre-service appeals and 30 calendar days for post-service appeals. Appeals on behalf of the member must include written authorization to appeal on the member's behalf.

Expedited Appeals

You may request an expedited appeal when a covered person is hospitalized or, in the opinion of the treating provider, review under a standard time frame could, in the absence of immediate medical attention, result in any of the following:

- Placing the health of the covered person or, with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the covered person or the unborn child in serious jeopardy
- Serious impairment to bodily functions
- Serious dysfunction of a bodily organ or part

Requests may be a verbal request and should be submitted to the Grievance and Appeals department by calling **1-833-230-2101**.

Expedited review of an internal appeal may be started orally, in writing or by other reasonable means available. We will complete expedited review of an appeal as soon as possible given the medical needs but no later than 72 hours after our receipt of the request or as expeditiously as the medical condition requires unless the resolution time frame is extended.

Notification of Resolution

CareSource will communicate our decision by telephone to the attending physician or the ordering provider. We will also provide written notice of our determination to the member, attending physician or ordering provider and the facility rendering the service.

Extending an Appeal

A member can verbally request that CareSource extend the time frame to resolve a standard or expedited appeal up to 14 calendar days only if more time is needed due to circumstances beyond their control. CareSource may request that the time frame to resolve a standard or expedited appeal be extended up to 14 calendar days only if more time is needed due to circumstances beyond our control.

Dissatisfaction of Medical Necessity Appeals – Member External Reviews

CareSource, as a health plan, must provide a process that allows members the right to request an independent external review of an adverse benefit determination. An adverse benefit determination is a decision by us to deny benefits because services are not covered, are excluded, or limited under the plan, or because the member is not eligible to receive the benefit. The adverse benefit determination may involve an issue of medical necessity, appropriateness, health care setting or level of care or effectiveness. An adverse benefit determination can also be a decision to deny health benefit plan coverage or to rescind coverage.



Opportunity for External Review

You may use the “**Provider Appeal Request Form**” on **CareSource.com** > Providers > Tools & Resources > [Forms](#) to submit your appeal, but this form is not required.

Appeal requests should include:

- The member’s name, CareSource member ID number and date of birth
- The provider’s name and CareSource provider billing number
- The place, date and type of service that had a non-certification determination for clinical appeals
- The reason why the determination should be reconsidered
- Any additional available medical information to support your reasons for reversing the determination
- Written authorization from the member allowing you to file the appeal on their behalf

The Appeals department may request additional information from you to document medical necessity.

All appeal requests and associated information are reviewed by clinicians previously uninvolved with the case. You will be notified in writing of the outcome of your appeal request.

How to Submit Medical Necessity Appeals

There are three ways to submit appeals: through our Provider Portal, by fax or in writing:

Online

Visit **CareSource.com** > Login > [Provider Portal](#)

Fax

937-531-2398

Writing

CareSource
Attn: Provider Appeals – Clinical
P.O. Box 1947
Dayton, OH 45401-1947



PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS

Primary Care Provider Concept

All CareSource members may, though are not required to, choose a PCP upon enrollment in the plan. PCPs should help facilitate a medical home for members. This means that PCPs will help coordinate health care for the member and provide additional health options to the member for self-care or care from community partners.

Members select a PCP from our online Provider Directory available at **CareSource.com** > Members > Tools & Resources > [Find a Doctor](#). Members have the option to change to another participating PCP as often as needed. Members initiate the change by updating CareSource MyLife or by calling Member Services.

Primary Care Provider Roles and Responsibilities

PCP care coordination responsibilities include the following:

- Assisting with coordination of the member's overall care, as appropriate for the member.
- Serving as the ongoing source of primary and preventive care.
- Recommending referrals to specialists, as necessary.
- Triageing members.
- Participating in the development of case management care treatment plans and notifying CareSource of members who may benefit from case management. Please see the **"Member Support Services"** chapter on **page 49** on how to refer members for case management.



Primary Care Providers are responsible for:

- Treating CareSource members with the same dignity and respect afforded to all patients. This includes high standards of care and the same hours of operation.
- Identifying the member's health needs and taking appropriate action.
- Providing phone coverage for handling patient calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Following all referral and PA policies and procedures as outlined in this manual.
- Complying with the quality standards of our health plans outlined in this manual.
- Providing 30 days of emergency coverage to any CareSource patient dismissed from the practice.
- Maintaining clinical records, including information about pharmaceuticals, referrals, inpatient history, etc.
- Obtaining patient records from facilities visited by CareSource patients for emergency or urgent care if notified of the visit.
- Ensuring demographic and practice information is up to date for directory and member use.

In addition, CareSource PCPs play an integral part in coordinating health care for our members by providing:

- Availability of a personal health care practitioner to assist with coordination of a member's overall care, as appropriate for the member
- Continuity of the member's total health care
- Early detection and preventive health care services
- Elimination of inappropriate and duplicate services

Prenatal and Postpartum Care Documentation

To ensure accurate documentation of prenatal and postpartum care, please be sure to document the following in patient records:

- Evidence of prenatal teaching – This includes education on infant feeding; Women, Infants and Children (WIC); birth control; prenatal risk factors; dietary/nutrition information and childbirth procedures.
- Components of the postpartum checkup – This includes documenting the pelvic exam, blood pressure, weight, breast exam and abdominal exam.

Immunization Schedule

Immunizations are an important part of preventive care for children and should be administered as needed. CareSource endorses the same childhood immunization schedule that is recommended by the Center for Disease Control and approved by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). This schedule is updated annually, and the most current updates can be found at www.aap.org.



Clinical Practice Registry and Member Profile

The CareSource Clinical Practice Registry helps PCPs improve patient health outcomes efficiently. The primary use of the Registry is to help PCPs manage their patient population. It is quick and easy to access on our secure Provider Portal.

PCPs can quickly sort their CareSource membership into actionable groups. The CareSource Clinical Practice Registry is a proactive approach to patient care and helps place emphasis on preventive care.

Key Benefits of the Registry

- The registry is color-coded, which provides easy identification of members in need of tests and/or screenings.
- The information can be downloaded as a PDF or in an Excel spreadsheet format (the Excel spreadsheet contains patient contact information).
- It provides direct access to the CareSource Member Profile feature for individual members of interest.

Information Included on the Registry

- Well-baby visits (zero to 15 months)
- Well-care (two to 21 months)
- Asthma
- Breast cancer screening
- Cervical cancer screening
- Chlamydia screening
- Lead screening
- Diabetes (e.g., cholesterol, eye exam, hematology, kidney)
- Emergency room visits

The CareSource Clinical Practice Registry is located on our secure [Provider Portal](#).

Member Profile

With its comprehensive view of patient medical and pharmacy data, our Member Profile can help you improve health outcomes for your CareSource patients. The Member Profile can also help you determine an accurate diagnosis more efficiently, reduce unnecessary diagnostic tests and minimize emergency room visits.

Key Benefits of the Member Profile

- Provides medical history
- Identifies potential prescription non-adherence or abuse
- Identifies duplication of services
- Introduces disease or care management options

Please Note: The Member Profile tool can be found on the Eligibility and Prior Authorization screens of the [Provider Portal](#).



Telephone Arrangements/24-Hour Access

PCPs and specialty physicians are required to maintain sufficient access to facilities and personnel to provide covered physician services. They must ensure that such services are accessible to members as needed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year as follows:

- A provider's office phone must be answered during normal business hours.
- Answer the member's telephone inquiries on a timely basis.
- Prioritize appointments.
- Schedule a series of appointments and follow-up appointments as needed by a member.
- Identify and reschedule broken and no-show appointments.
- Identify special member needs while scheduling an appointment (e.g., wheelchair and interpretive linguistic needs, non-compliant individuals or those people with cognitive impairments).
- Adhere to the following response time for telephone call-back waiting times:
 - After hours telephone care for non-emergent, symptomatic issues within 30 minutes.
 - Same day for non-symptomatic concerns.
 - Crisis situations within 15 minutes.
- Schedule continuous availability and accessibility of professional, allied and supportive personnel to provide covered services within normal working hours. Protocols shall be in place to provide coverage in the event of a provider's absence.
- After-hour calls should be documented in a written format in either an after-hour call log or some other method and then transferred to the member's medical record.
- During after-hours calls, a provider must have arrangements for the following:
 - Office phone is answered after hours by an answering machine service that can contact the PCP or another designated medical practitioner, and the PCP or designee is available to return the call within a maximum of 30 minutes.
 - Office phone is answered after hours by a recording directing the member to call another number to reach the PCP or another medical practitioner whom the provider has designated to return the call within a maximum of 30 minutes.
 - Office phone is transferred after office hours to another location where someone will answer the phone and be able to contact the PCP or another designated medical practitioner within a maximum of 30 minutes.



KEY CONTRACT PROVISIONS

To make it easier for you, we have outlined key components of your contract. These key components strengthen our partnership with you and enable us to meet or exceed our commitment to improve the health care of the underserved. We appreciate your cooperation in carrying out our contractual arrangements and meeting the needs of underserved consumers.

Provider Responsibilities

- Providing CareSource with advance written notice of any intent to terminate an agreement with us. In terminations without cause, written notice must be done 90 calendar days prior to the date of the intended termination and submitted on your organization's letterhead.
 - **60 calendar days' notice is required if you plan to close your practice to new patients.** If we are not notified within this time period, you will be required to continue accepting CareSource members for a 60-calendar day period following notification.
- **For PCPs only:** Providing 24-hour availability to your CareSource patients by telephone. Whether through an answering machine or a taped message used after-hours, patients should be given the means to contact their PCP or a back-up provider to be triaged for care. It is not acceptable to use a phone message that does not provide access to you or your back-up provider and only recommends emergency room use for after hours.
- Claims or corrected claims should be submitted within 365 calendar days of the date of service or discharge.
- Appeals must be filed within the required time frame from the date of service or discharge. Please see the requirements in the **"Provider Appeals Procedures"** chapter starting on **page 76**.
- Providers should keep all demographic and practice information up to date. Information updates can be submitted on the CareSource Provider Portal at **CareSource.com** > Login > [Provider Portal](#).

CareSource Responsibilities

- Paying claims timely.
- Providing you with an appeals procedure for timely resolution of any requests to reverse a CareSource determination regarding claims payment. Our appeal process is outlined in the appeals section of this manual.



- Offering a 24-hour nurse advice line service for members to reach a medical professional at any time with questions or concerns. The number is **1-833-687-7378**.
- Coordinating benefits for members with primary insurance, which involves subtracting the primary payment from the lesser of the primary carrier allowable or the CareSource allowable. If the member's primary insurer pays a provider equal to or more than CareSource's fee schedule for a covered service, CareSource will not pay the additional amount.
- Making available member details on coverage and benefits.

These are just a few of the specific terms of our agreement. In addition, we expect participating providers to follow standard practice procedures even though they may not be spelled out in our provider agreement.

Examples

- Participating providers, or their designee, are expected to make daily visits to their patients who have been admitted as inpatient to an acute care facility or arrange for a colleague to visit.
- Participating PCPs are expected to have a system in place for following up with patients who miss scheduled appointments.
- Participating providers are expected to treat members with respect. CareSource members should not be treated any differently than patients with any other health care insurance. Please reference member rights in the **"Member Support Services"** section of this manual on **page 49**.

CareSource expects participating providers to verify member eligibility and ask for all of their health care insurance information before rendering services, except in an emergency. You can verify member eligibility and obtain information for other health care insurance coverage that we have on file by logging onto the Provider Portal from the menu options.

Advance written notice of status changes, such as a change in address, phone or adding or deleting a provider to your practice helps us keep our records current and are critical for claims processing.

Submitting Provider Changes

| Type of Change | Notice Required |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| | Please notify CareSource of the change prior to the time frames listed below. |
| New providers or deleting providers | Immediate |
| Providers leave the practice | Immediately upon provider notice |
| Phone number change | 10 calendar days |
| Address change | 60 calendar days |
| Change in capacity to accept members | 60 calendar days |
| Providers intent to terminate | 90 calendar days |

Why is it important to give changes to CareSource?

This information is critical to process your claims. In addition, it ensures our Provider Directories are up to date and reduces unnecessary calls to your practice. This information is also reportable to Medicaid and Medicare.



How to Submit Changes to CareSource:

Information updates can be submitted on the CareSource Provider Portal at **CareSource.com** > Login > [Provider Portal](#).

Other ways to submit changes include:

Fax

937-396-3076

Mail

CareSource
Attn: Provider Maintenance
P.O. Box 8738
Dayton, OH 45401-8738

Provider Directory Information Attestation

State and Federal regulations require Health Plans to validate and update published information regarding their contracted provider network monthly. This validation ensures we have the most accurate information for claims payment and provider directories. This information is critical to process your claims. In addition, it ensures our Provider Directories are up to date and reduces unnecessary calls to your practice. This information is also reportable to Medicaid and Medicare. **Providers are required to attest to directory information every 90 days.**

**Accurate
provider directory
information
ensures we can
connect the right
patients to the
right provider.**

What happens if I do not attest to my information?

CMS require health plans to verify the accuracy of provider directory information every 90 days. Not attesting to your information and/or providing updated information when applicable can result in claims payment issues and inaccurate provider data in our online and printed directories. With the No Surprises Act in effect as of January 1, 2022, providers who do not attest quarterly risk being suppressed in impacted provider directories.

Americans with Disabilities Act Standards

Additionally, providers will remain compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, including but not limited to:

- Utilizing waiting room and exam room furniture that meet needs of all enrollees, including those with physical and non-physical disabilities
- Accessibility along public transportation routes and/or provide enough parking
- Utilizing clear signage and way finding (e.g., color and symbol signage) throughout facilities
- Providing secure access for staff-only areas

For more information on these ADA standards and how to be compliant, please see the ADA section of this manual.



FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE

Health care fraud, waste and abuse hurts everyone, including members, providers, taxpayers and CareSource. As a result, CareSource has a comprehensive fraud, waste and abuse program in our Program Integrity department. Please help us by reporting questionable activities and potential fraud, waste and abuse situations.

Definition of Terms

Fraud is knowingly and willfully executing, or attempting to execute, a scheme or artifice to defraud any health care benefit program or to obtain (by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations or promises) any of the money or property owned by, or under the custody or control of, any health care benefit program.

Waste involves the taxpayers not receiving reasonable value for money in connection with any government funded activities due to an inappropriate act or omission by player with control over, or access to, government resources (e.g., executive, judicial or legislative branch employees, grantees or other recipients). Waste goes beyond fraud and abuse, and most waste does not involve a violation of law. Waste relates primarily to mismanagement, inappropriate actions and inadequate oversight.

Abuse includes actions that may, directly or indirectly, result in unnecessary costs, improper payment, payment for services that fail to meet professionally recognized standards of care or services that are medically unnecessary. Abuse involves payment for items or services when there is no legal entitlement to that payment and the provider/member has not knowingly and/or intentionally misrepresented facts to obtain payment.

Improper Payments are any payments that should not have been made or that were made in an incorrect amount (including overpayments and underpayments) under statutory, contractual, administrative or other legally applicable requirements. This includes any payment to an ineligible recipient, any payment for an ineligible good or service, any duplicate payment, any payment for a good or service not received (except for such payments where authorized by law) and any payment that does not account for credit for applicable discounts. Anyone who identifies an improper payment should report it to CareSource using one of the reporting methods below.



Examples of Member Fraud, Waste and/or Abuse:

- Inappropriately using services, such as selling prescribed narcotics or seeking controlled substances from multiple providers or multiple pharmacies
- Altering or forging prescriptions – i.e., changing prescription forms to get more than the amount of medication prescribed by their physician
- Non-disclosure of other health insurance coverage
- Obtaining unnecessary equipment and supplies
- Identity theft/sharing ID cards – i.e., member receiving services under someone else's ID, sharing your ID with others or submitting prescriptions under another person's ID
- Providing inaccurate symptoms and other information to providers to get treatment, drugs, etc.

Examples of Provider Fraud, Waste and/or Abuse:

- Prescribing drugs, equipment or services that are not medically necessary
- Billing for services not provided
- Billing more than once for the same service
- Intentionally using improper medical coding to receive a higher rate of reimbursement
- Purchasing drugs from outside the United States
- Prescribing high quantities of controlled substances without medical necessity
- Unbundling services to obtain higher reimbursement
- Scheduling more frequent return visits than are needed
- Billing for services outside of your medical qualifications
- Using patient lists for the purpose of submitting fraudulent claims
- Drugs billed for inpatients as if they were outpatients
- Payments stemming from kickbacks or Stark Law violations
- Not reporting overpayments or overbilling
- Preventing members from accessing covered services resulting in underutilization of services offered

Examples of Pharmacy Fraud, Waste and/or Abuse:

- Prescription drugs not dispensed as written
- Submitting claims for a more expensive brand name drug when a less expensive generic prescription is dispensed
- Dispensing less than the prescribed quantity without arranging for the additional medication to be received with no additional dispensing fees
- Splitting prescriptions into two orders to seek higher reimbursement
- Dispensing expired, fake, diluted or illegal drugs
- Billing prescriptions not filled or picked up

It is also important for you to tell us if a CareSource employee or vendor acts inappropriately.



Examples of Employee Fraud, Waste and/or Abuse:

- Receiving gifts or kickbacks from vendors for goods or services
- Inappropriately marketing our company to potential members
- Behaving in an unethical or dishonest manner while performing company business

Examples of Vendor Fraud, Waste and/or Abuse:

- Falsifying business reports
- Not reporting or taking action on employees that are debarred
- Billing for services not rendered or products not received
- Billing for a more expensive services, but providing a less expensive service

The Program Integrity department routinely monitors for potential billing discrepancies or potential fraud, waste and abuse. When found, an investigation is initiated and, if warranted, corrective action is taken.

Corrective actions can include, but are not limited to:

- Member and/or provider education
- Written corrective action plan
- Provider termination with or without cause
- Provider summary suspension
- Recovery of overpaid funds
- Member disenrollment
- Contract termination
- Employee disciplinary actions
- Reporting to one or more applicable state and federal agencies
- Legal actions

Your provider agreement provides specific information on each type of termination/suspension. The Fair Hearing Plan, available at [CareSource.com/documents/fhp](https://www.caresource.com/documents/fhp), provides information on an appeal process for specific provider terminations.

Network providers are to report and return to CareSource any overpayment within 60 calendar days of identification and notify CareSource in writing of the reason for the overpayment.



The Federal and State False Claims Acts and Other Fraud, Waste and Abuse Laws:

Using the False Claims Act (the Act), you can help reduce fraud against the federal government. The Act allows everyone to bring “whistleblower” lawsuits on behalf of the government — known as “qui tam” suits — against businesses or other individuals that are defrauding the government through programs, agencies or contracts.

The False Claims Act

- A. The Federal False Claims Act (the “Act”) was first signed into law in 1863, but the Act has recently undergone significant changes. Using the False Claims Act, individuals can help reduce fraud against the federal government. The Act allows individuals to bring “whistleblower” lawsuits on behalf of the government, also known as “qui tam” suits, against businesses or individuals that are defrauding the government through programs, agencies or contracts.

The False Claims Act applies when a company or person:

- i. Knowingly presents, or causes to be presented, a false or fraudulent claim for payment or approval;
 - ii. Knowingly makes, uses, or causes to be made or used, a false record or statement material to a false or fraudulent claim.
 - iii. Conspires to commit a violation of any other section of the Act;
 - iv. Has possession, custody or control of property or money used, or to be used, by the Government and knowingly delivers, or causes to be delivered, less than all of that money or property;
 - v. Is authorized to make or deliver a document certifying receipt of property used, or to be used, by the Government and, intending to defraud the Government, makes or delivers the receipt without completely knowing that the information on the receipt is true;
 - vi. Knowingly buys, or receives as a pledge of an obligation or debt, public property from an office or employee of the Government, or a member of the Armed Forces, who lawfully may not sell or pledge property; or
 - vii. Knowingly makes, uses, or causes to be made or used, a false record or statement material to an obligation to pay or transmit money or property to the Government, or knowingly conceals or knowingly and improperly avoids or decreases an obligation to pay or transmit money or property to the Government.
- B. An example would be if a health care provider, such as a hospital or a physician, knowingly “upcodes” or overbills, resulting in overpayment of the claim using Medicaid or Medicare dollars.
- C. A violation of the Federal Anti-Kickback Statute constitutes a false and fraudulent claim under the Act.



False Claims in Nevada

Nevada has enacted a false claims statute under Chapter 357 of the Nevada revised statute:

- A. A person who, with or without specific intent to defraud, does any of the following listed acts is liable to the State or a political subdivision, whichever is affected:
 - i. Knowingly presents or causes to be presented a false or fraudulent claim for payment or approval.
 - ii. Knowingly makes or uses, or causes to be made or used, a false record or statement that is material to a false or fraudulent claim.
 - iii. Has possession, custody or control of public property or money used or to be used by the State or a political subdivision and knowingly delivers, or causes to be delivered, to the State or a political subdivision less money or property than the amount of which the person has possession, custody or control.
 - iv. Is authorized to prepare or deliver a document that certifies receipt of money or property used or to be used by the State or a political subdivision and knowingly prepares or delivers such a document without knowing that the information on the document is true.
 - v. Knowingly buys, or receives as a pledge or security for an obligation or debt, public property from a person who is not authorized to sell or pledge the property.
 - vi. Knowingly makes or uses, or causes to be made or used, a false record or statement that is material to an obligation to pay or transmit money or property to the State or political subdivision.
 - vii. Knowingly conceals or knowingly and improperly avoids or decreases an obligation to pay or transmit money or property to the State or a political subdivision.
 - viii. Is a beneficiary of an inadvertent submission of a false claim and, after discovering the falsity of the claim, fails to disclose the falsity to the State or political subdivision within a reasonable time.
 - ix. Conspires to commit any of the acts set forth in this subsection.
- B. For each act described above that is committed by a person, the person is liable for:
 - i. Three times the amount of damages sustained by the State or political subdivision, whichever is affected, because of the act of the person.
 - ii. The costs of a civil action brought to recover the damages.
 - iii. A civil penalty of not less than \$5,500 or more than \$11,000. A civil penalty imposed pursuant to this paragraph must correspond to any adjustments in the monetary amount of a civil penalty for violation of the federal False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3729(a), made by the Attorney General of the United States in accordance with Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990, Pub. L. 101-410.

The time period for a claim to be brought under the False Claims Act is the later of:

- Within six years from the date of the illegal conduct, or
- Within three years after the date the government knows or should have known about the illegal conduct, but in no event later than ten years after the illegal activity.



Protection for Reporters of Fraud, Waste or Abuse

In addition, federal and state law and CareSource's policy prohibit any retaliation or retribution against persons who report suspected violations of these laws to law enforcement officials or who file "whistleblower" lawsuits on behalf of the government. Anyone who believes that he or she has been subject to any such retribution or retaliation should also report this to our Program Integrity department.

Additional information on the False Claims Act and our fraud, waste and abuse policies can be found on **CareSource.com** > Providers > Education > [Fraud, Waste & Abuse](#).

Other Fraud, Waste and Abuse Laws

- Under the federal Anti-Kickback Statute, and subject to certain exceptions, it is a crime for anyone to knowingly and willfully solicit or receive, or pay anything of value, including a kickback, bribe or rebate in return for referring an individual to a person for any item or service for which payment may be made in whole or in part under a federal health care program. 42 U.S.C. §1320a-7b.
- Under the federal Stark Law, and subject to certain exceptions, providers are prohibited from referring federal health care program patients for certain designated health services to an entity with which the physician or an immediate family member has a financial relationship. The Stark Law imposes specific reporting requirements on entities that receive payment for services covered by federal health care programs. 42 U.S.C. §1395(a) and §1903(s).
- As part of HIPAA, the U.S. Criminal Code was amended, and it is a crime to knowingly and willfully execute or attempt to execute a scheme or artifice to defraud any federal health care program or obtain by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations or promises, any money or property owned by or under the custody or control of any federal health care program. 18 U.S.C. §1347.
- The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (DRA) contains many provisions reforming Medicare and Medicaid that are designed to reduce program spending. As an entity that offers Medicaid and Medicare coverage, CareSource is required to comply with certain provisions of the DRA. One such provision prompted this communication, as it requires us to provide you with information about the federal False Claims Act, state False Claims Acts, and other state laws regarding Medicare and Medicaid fraud. In addition, the DRA requires you and your contractors and agents to adopt our policy on fraud, waste and abuse when handling CareSource business.



Prohibited Affiliations

CareSource is prohibited from knowingly having relationships with persons who are debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from participating in federal procurement and non-procurement activities, this includes ineligibility to participate in federal programs by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) or another federal agency under 2 CFR 180.970 and exclusion by HHS's Office of the Inspector General or by the General Services Administration under 2 CFR 376.

Relationships must be terminated with any trustee, officer, employee, provider or vendor who is identified to be debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from participation. If you become aware that your corporate entity, those with more than five percent ownership in your corporate entity, your office management staff or you are a prohibited affiliation, you must notify us **immediately** by emailing Provider Maintenance at **ProviderMaintenance@CareSource.com**.

Disclosure of Ownership, Debarment and Criminal Convictions

Before CareSource enters into or renews an agreement with your practice or corporate entity, you must disclose any debarment, proposed debarment, suspension or declared ineligible status related to federal programs of yourself and your managing employees and anyone with an ownership or controlling interest in your practice or corporate entity.

You must also notify CareSource of any federal or state government current or pending legal actions, criminal or civil, convictions, administrative actions, investigations or matters subject to arbitration.

In addition, if the ownership or controlling interest of your practice or corporate entity changes, you have an obligation to notify us immediately. This also includes ownership and controlling interest by a spouse, parent, child or sibling. Please contact us by emailing Provider Maintenance at **ProviderMaintenance@CareSource.com**.

If you have ownership of a related medical entity where there are significant financial transactions, you may be required to provide information on your business dealings upon request.

If you fail to provide this information, we are prohibited from doing business with you. Please refer to the Code of Federal Regulations 42 CFR 455.100-106 for more information and definitions of relevant terms.



How to Report Fraud, Waste or Abuse

It is CareSource's policy to detect and prevent any activity that may constitute fraud, waste or abuse, including violations of the federal False Claims Act. Federal and state law and CareSource policy prohibit any retaliation or retribution against persons who report suspected violations. If you have knowledge or information that any such activity may be or has taken place, please contact our Program Integrity department. Reporting fraud, waste or abuse can be anonymous or not anonymous.

Options for Reporting Anonymously:

Call the appropriate number below and indicate you are calling to report fraud at **1-844-415-1272**.

Our fraud, waste and abuse hotline is available 24 hours a day.

Write

CareSource
Attn: Program Integrity
P.O. Box 1940
Dayton, OH 45401-1940

Options for Reporting That Are Not Anonymous:

Fax

1-800-418-0248

Email

Fraud@CareSource.com

Or you may choose to use the **Fraud, Waste and Abuse Reporting Form** located on **CareSource.com** > Providers > Tools & Resources > [Forms](#).

When you report fraud, waste or abuse, please give as many details as you can, including names and phone numbers. You may remain anonymous, but if you do, we will not be able to call you back for more information. Your reports will be kept **confidential** to the extent permitted by law.

Physician Education Materials

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has created free materials for providers to assist you in understanding the federal laws designed to protect program beneficiaries from fraud, waste and abuse. This brochure can be found on the Office of Inspector General's website at oig.hhs.gov/compliance/physician-education/index.asp.

Thank you for helping CareSource keep fraud, waste and abuse out of health care.



CareSource.com