

# Monthly Provider Update

January 2026

## **Go Paperless! Get the Monthly Provider Update by Email**

Providers can now sign up to receive monthly updates via email by filling out [the form on our Bulletins page](#).



**Did you miss an update?** You can locate Monthly Provider Updates from previous months and applicable supplemental bulletins in the [archive section of the Bulletins page](#), or see full details of any ongoing reminders on the [Ongoing Reminders page](#).

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This month, we have important updates including **upcoming plan transitions, training and education opportunities for maternal mental health**, and updates regarding **GLP-1 Agent Medication Coverage**.

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## Market-Wide Updates

### **Help Prevent the Flu: Encourage Vaccination**

Flu season is approaching, and **vaccinations remain one of the most effective ways to protect patients and communities**.

The trust you have established with your patients leads to effective and impactful conversations around flu prevention. Please speak openly with your patients about vaccines to help them decide what protection is best for them and the people they care about. See our Bulletins Page for a printable flyer and more information on Meridian's Fluvention initiatives.



### **Monthly Provider Webinars**

Additional details, registration information, and links to 2025 webinars are on our bulletins page

**Wednesday, February 4, 9-10 am EST**

**Wednesday, March 4, 9-10 am EST**

### **Important Prior Authorization Updates (Effective 4/1/2026)**

As part of our ongoing work to improve the prior authorization (PA) process for both providers and members, Meridian wants to share some important updates to our PA requirements. Our goal is to reduce administrative burden, simplify submission and approval processes, and facilitate timely access to appropriate, high-quality care. For a full list of code changes and additional details, please see our Bulletins/Provider Update pages for the applicable lines of business.

### **Do Your Patients Overuse Oral Corticosteroids (OCS)?**

While OCS can be an important tool in managing asthma in certain cases, **use should always be carefully monitored by a qualified asthma specialist, or a primary care provider with asthma expertise**. See the link on our Bulletins page for more about the risks of overusing OCS and resources that can help facilitate conversations with your patients.

# Meridian (Medicaid) Updates

## 2025 Quarter Four Clinical Policy Review

During Q4 2025, several clinical policies have been adopted, and several clinical policies have undergone an annual review with some added criteria requirements that may impact the prior authorization process. **These changes go into effect on February 24, 2026.** Clinical policies are located on Clinical Policies page. For a full overview of affected policies and a link to our clinical policies, please see the Bulletins page.

## Updated CKD/KED Clinical Guidelines Now Available

Meridian has recently adopted MQIC-approved clinical guidelines for Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and Kidney Health Evaluation for Adults with Diabetes (KED). Providers are encouraged to **review these guidelines and implement best practices for early detection, monitoring, and management of kidney health.** Access the full overview on our Practice Guidelines page, or in the supplemental material on our Bulletins Page.

## Public Comments to MDHHS on Common Formulary

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) solicits comments quarterly from the public on the Michigan Medicaid Health Plan Common Formulary. The public (including Medicaid providers) may submit comments on the drugs included or not included on the Common Formulary, new drug products, prior authorization criteria, and other topics related to drug coverage under the Common Formulary.

The comments will be reviewed by MDHHS and the Michigan Medicaid Health Plan Common Formulary Workgroup and changes may be made to the Common Formulary based on comments received. Please send your comments to the department at **MDHHSCommonFormulary@michigan.gov**; the Michigan Medicaid Health Plan Common Formulary can be found at **Michigan.gov/MCOpharmacy**.

## January Preventative Health Spotlight

### Birth Defects Awareness Month

Act now: Screen **all children for lead at ages 1 and 2 to prevent irreversible developmental harm.** Review your patient list, order tests during visits, and educate families—your action saves lives and meets Michigan guidelines.

### Cervical Health Awareness Month

Encourage routine **cervical cancer screenings and HPV immunization** to prevent disease and improve health outcomes.

### Maternal Health Matters: Postpartum Care Support

Schedule postpartum visits **within 7-84 days** to address physical and mental health needs. These visits provide an opportunity to address complications, review birth experiences, and support breastfeeding or family-planning needs. Encouraging **timely postpartum follow-up** helps improve maternal well-being and supports healthier outcomes for both parent and baby.

## Meridian Michigan Medicaid Pharmacy Formulary Resources

The Meridian Michigan Medicaid Pharmacy Formulary is updated monthly and posted for reference on our Provider Pharmacy Page. Our formulary is driven by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) required drug coverage rules from the Single Preferred Drug List (SPDL) & Common Formulary. Drug coverage rules, including prior authorization criteria for managed care plans including Meridian are developed and regulated by the State of Michigan through MDHHS.

Please see our bulletins page for more information and direct links to MDHHS Michigan Medicaid Common Formulary Resources, including SPDL changes and current PA Criteria.

## Wellcare (Medicare) Updates

### MI Medicare/Wellcare Pharmacy Prior Authorization Reminders for 2026

Providers and Members can initiate prior authorization requests, also known as coverage determinations, for Medicare plans. See the [Coverage Determination Request Page](#) on the pharmacy section of our website for details on how to submit a request.

- We encourage providers to prescribe medications that are covered in the 2026 Wellcare formulary to treat members' conditions. Formulary medications have lower cost share for our members compared to non-formulary medications.
- For PPO and HMO Wellcare plans, see our [Formulary Search Tool for PPO \(Contract H2117\) and HMO \(Contract H5475\)](#). For the integrated Medicare and Medicaid Dual Plan (HIDE-SNP), an MI Coordinated Health Plan, also known as Wellcare by Meridian, utilize the [Formulary Search Tool for HIDE-SNP HMO \(Contract H7435\)](#)

### Wellcare By Meridian (HIDE D-SNP) Electronic Funds Transfers (EFTs) and Electronic Remittance Advices (ERAs)

Meridian is pleased to partner with PaySpan Health to provide an innovative web based solution for Electronic Funds Transfers (EFTs) and Electronic Remittance Advices (ERAs). This service is provided at no cost to providers and allows online enrollment. Please see the Wellcare By Meridian Provider News page for more details.

### Wellcare By Meridian (HIDE D-SNP) Availity Electronic Claims Processing

To ensure faster and more efficient claims processing, we strongly encourage all providers to submit claims electronically—either via electronic data interchange (EDI) or through our secure online portal. Providers can submit claims by registering for the Availity payer portal. Once your registration is complete, please submit claims using **Payer ID 68069**. **For more information** please see the Wellcare By Meridian Provider News page

## In Case You Missed It

Additional details can be found on our [Ongoing Reminders Page](#)

- **RSV Season 2025-2026:** Our pharmacy team has created a [summary of RSV-related immunization updates and information on coverage](#) under medical and pharmacy benefits for RSV vaccines and RSV monoclonal antibodies used for immunization.
- The [Michigan Medicaid SPDL Formulary](#) has been updated as of 8/1/2025. These changes include **drugs that have been added, removed, or had utilization management restrictions adjusted** for preferred and non-preferred medications
- Effective 01/01/2026, Michigan Medicaid pharmacy drug [coverage of GLP-1 agonist agents Wegovy, Zepbound, Saxenda, and liraglutide generic for Saxenda, when used exclusively for the treatment of Obesity, is reduced](#) accordance with requirements of the State of Michigan 2026 Budget Legislation.
- **The coverage of certain insulin syringes and pen needle products** has changed as of 08/01/2025 for all members. **Effective on 08/01/2025, insulin syringes and pen needles other than Embecta (formerly known as B.D.) branded products have been removed from the formulary.**
- **Recent Prior Authorization, Billing, and Policy Updates:**
  - Prior Authorization required for certain skin substitute codes effective 10/16/2025 – see Ongoing reminders page for full list and more details.
  - New Clinical Policies effective 8/22/2025 – see Ongoing Reminders page for full list and more details.