

Monthly Provider Update

February 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**.

This month, we have important updates including **incentive and support initiatives, new formulary search tools, and health reminders for kidney and pediatric health.**

Market-Wide Updates

Protecting Kidney Health Starts with Blood Pressure Control

High blood pressure is the second leading cause of kidney failure in the U.S., and many patients with early-stage chronic kidney disease (CKD) remain undiagnosed due to a lack of symptoms. As a provider, you play a critical role in identifying at-risk individuals, especially those with hypertension or diabetes, through routine screening with eGFR and uACR tests. Slow CKD progression and improve outcomes by integrating kidney health evaluations into your standard care protocols.

Social Drivers of Health (SDOH) Incentive Program

Meridian recognizes that health care extends beyond standard testing and treatment and includes screening for social drivers of health (SDOH) that may adversely impact patient outcomes. Please refer to the 2026 SDOH Incentive guidelines (linked in the supplemental materials for this month) and ensure that all submissions include the appropriate corresponding LOINC codes.

Wellcare By Meridian integrated Dual Special Needs Plan (D-SNP)

Our Wellcare by Meridian integrated Dual Special Needs Plan (D-SNP) is now live! On January 1, 2026, our new integrated plan began providing coverage for dual-eligible members. View additional information about this plan on the Wellcare By Meridian For Providers page, linked on the bulletins page.



Monthly Provider Webinars

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

Wednesday, March 4, 9-10 am EST
Wednesday, April 1, 9-10 am EST

Meridian (Medicaid) Updates

MI AIM Severe Hypertension Bundle Initiative

The Michigan Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (MI AIM) equips hospitals with standardized best practices to **ensure safe births, improve prenatal and postpartum outcomes, and save lives**. Achieving these goals requires the commitment of the entire birthing community. Your hospital's participation is critical in protecting mothers and babies from preventable complications and mortality.

Meridian is committed to **advancing equitable birthing outcomes**. As a proud partner and supporter of MI AIM safety bundles, **we have launched a Free Blood Pressure & WiFi-Enabled Tablet Initiative** to strengthen hospital compliance and improve outcomes for the **Severe Hypertension in Pregnancy Safety Bundle**. The initiative focuses on improving 3-day and 7-day post-discharge follow up visits for perinatal patients discharged after a hypertension-related hospitalization. For more information and an application form, please see our bulletins page.

Michigan Meridian Medicaid – Diabetic Supply Reference Guide (February 2026 Update)

Meridian has created a **resource for providers** which details coverage information for diabetic supplies available to Michigan Meridian Medicaid members. Please refer to the **supplemental bulletin page titled "Michigan Meridian Medicaid – Diabetic Supply Reference Guide (February 2026 Update)"** for information regarding diabetic supply products, available benefit types where diabetic supplies are covered, and coverage restrictions.

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**.

Healthy Smiles Start During Well-Child Visits

Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease of early childhood, and it's largely preventable. Yet, more than half of children under age 3 have never seen a dentist. As a trusted Meridian provider, you play a critical role in changing that. During well-child visits, we encourage you to "lift the lip," **screen for early signs of decay, apply fluoride varnish when appropriate, and educate families about the importance of seeing a dentist by age one or when the first tooth appears**. Let's work together to ensure every child gets a healthy start. Make oral health screening and documentation a routine part of your care for children 0–3.

Meridian Michigan Medicaid Pharmacy Formulary Resources

The Meridian Michigan Medicaid Pharmacy Formulary is updated monthly and posted for reference on our Provider Pharmacy Page. **Beginning in February 2026, we have a new online formulary search tool, which enables members and providers to use interactive search to determine prescription drug coverage.**

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.**

Enteral Nutrition – Required Documentation for Prior Authorization

Meridian requires that the ordering practitioner or designated clinical staff such as a dietitian, registered nurse, or other qualified hospital personnel complete the *Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) BPHASA2401 Medical Justification for Enteral Therapy* form when requesting prior authorization for enteral nutrition. The form can be downloaded directly from the MDHHS or from our bulletins page.

Childhood Vaccine Coverage Notice

Despite recent changes to the CDC Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule, Jan. 5, 2026, coverage for childhood vaccines has not changed. Meridian continues to cover recommended childhood vaccines in accordance with federal requirements, state policy, and plan contracts. Details and next steps are available on our bulletins page.

Updated Evolent Authorization Requirements Effective April 1, 2026

Effective April 1, 2026, several procedures will be removed from prior authorization for the Meridian (Medicaid) line of business, including codes for radiology and diagnostic cardiology. For a full list of effected codes, see the bulletin posted to our website 1/29, available on our bulletins page.

In Case You Missed It

Additional details can be found on our Ongoing Reminders Page

- **Flu Season is here**, and vaccinations remain one of the most effective ways to protect patients and communities. Your relationship with your patients is one of trust and your conversations are impactful. **Please speak openly with your patients about vaccines** to help them decide what protection is best for them and the people they care about.
- **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.
- 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.
- **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.