



Monthly Provider Update

September 2026

Go Paperless! Get the Monthly Provider Update by Email

Providers can 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 notifications regarding **prior auth and policy changes**, resources and education for **Availity Essentials** and **infection prevention practices**, and reminders regarding **CGM billing** and **preventative care visits** for Medicaid and Medicare members

Market-Wide Updates

New to Availity Essentials or looking to sharpen your skills?

Whether you're just getting started or looking for a refresher, the Availity Learning Center offers **flexible training options** to help you make the most of Availity Essentials. Choose from **live webinars, on-demand training, and demos covering plan-specific topics** as well as Availity Essential features. See the Bulletins page for more details and a link to the Learning Center.

Updates to Payment Policies

We continually review and update our payment and utilization policies to ensure that they are designed to **comply with industry standards** while delivering the **best patient experience to our members**. We are writing today to inform you of the **revision to existing policies we will be implementing for dates of service beginning 11/1/2026**. Please see the Bulletins page for an overview of each updated policy.



Upcoming Events

Additional details, registration information, and webinar links are on our Bulletins page

Monthly Provider Webinar **Live Training: Provider Manual**

Wednesday, October 7, 9-10 am EST

October Availity Live Webinars

Pre-Service Workflow | Oct 6

Topics include eligibility & benefits and authorization

Post-Service Workflow | Oct 8

Topics include claim submission, EDI reporting, claim status and remittance viewer



CDC Core Infection Prevention Practices: Key Provider Responsibilities

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identifies several fundamental responsibilities for healthcare providers to **prevent healthcare-associated infections (HAIs)** and ensure **safe care delivery** across all healthcare settings. Every provider plays a **critical role in preventing infections**. See our Bulletins page for an overview of CDC-identified responsibilities and best practices.

Medical Necessity Reminders

Medical necessity is a **fundamental requirement for reimbursement** and plays a key role in **preventing fraud, waste, and abuse**. Services billed to Meridian must be **clinically appropriate, supported by the patient's condition, and documented in the medical record**. See our Bulletins page for key reminders for Providers.

Meridian (Medicaid) Updates

Importance of Preventative Care Visits

Preventive care visits are an important opportunity to **identify health concerns early**, review **recommended screenings and vaccinations**, and support **proactive care planning**. Providers can improve health outcomes by **engaging members who are overdue for preventive services** and addressing open care gaps. As respiratory virus season approaches, these visits also provide an ideal opportunity to **encourage annual flu vaccination** and other recommended preventive immunizations.

Continuous Glucose Monitors Duplication of Services: Medical & Pharmacy Benefit

Continuous Glucose Monitor (CGM) systems, such as Dexcom and Freestyle Libre, are **important tools for patients with diabetes to help monitor their blood sugar levels**. Meridian Medicaid members can receive their CGM devices such as sensors, transmitters, and receivers from a **durable medical equipment (DME) supplier** through medical benefits, or from an **in-network pharmacy** through pharmacy benefits, with an approved prior authorization. In order to **avoid duplication of claims and prior authorization efforts**, and to avoid waste, we encourage all prescribers of CGM systems to please **use only one benefit pathway** for each member's CGM supplies: either the medical benefit or the pharmacy benefit, and to please work with the member to determine the appropriate pathway based on their preference and dispensing needs.

Incontinence Supply Quantity Limit Updates

Effective 10/19/2026, several **incontinence supply codes have been updated** to align with MDHHS fee schedule quantity limits. Please see our bulletins page for more details and a full list of effected codes.

LTSS Provider Spotlight

Provider Workshops

We would like to thank the providers who participated in **Meridian's LTSS Provider Workshops** this summer. The workshops provided an opportunity to share updates, answer questions, and **hear directly from providers about opportunities to improve the provider experience**. We appreciate your partnership and engagement as we continue working together to support members across Michigan.



Contact the LTSS Team

To ensure questions and issues are routed to the **correct team for resolution**, providers are encouraged to submit inquiries using **Wellcare By Meridian's Provider Contact Form**. The Provider Contact Form **allows providers to submit questions** related to authorizations, claims, Electronic Visit Verification (EVV), eligibility, LTSS services and operations, and more.

Providers should **select the dropdown option that best matches their inquiry**: "LTSS Inquiry" for general questions, "LTSS Claims Issue" for claims questions, and "LTSS Meeting Request" to request a meeting with the LTSS Provider Concierge Team. Be sure to be detailed with your submission so we are able to support efficiently.

Michigan Continues Following AAP Immunization Schedule

Michigan pediatric providers will **continue to follow the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommended immunization schedule**. Due to Michigan's standing immunization recommendations, **families should not experience any changes in vaccine availability or routine vaccination practices** at their pediatrician's office. Providers can access current guidance through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and Michigan for Vaccines resources. Direct links are posted on our Bulletins page.

Zepbound to Zepbound Kwikpen - Pharmacy Cost Savings

For Michigan Meridian Medicaid patients, **Zepbound (tirzepatide) autoinjectors are a highly utilized drug for treatment of obesity and sleep apnea**, and the drug presents a significant cost burden for the health plan, State of Michigan Medicaid Program, and value-based care organizations. The manufacturer of Zepbound recently released a **new formulation of the same drug as "Zepbound Kwikpen" that provides significant cost savings** over the original Zepbound autoinjectors. Meridian has made efforts to help prescribers **transition patients to the newer, more cost-effective Zepbound Kwikpen formulation** as easily as possible. Please see the full supplemental bulletin article titled "Zepbound to Zepbound Kwikpen Rx Conversions (MI Medicaid)" for full details, prescribing nuances, and guidance on selecting patient candidates for transition.

New Medicaid Policy: 15-Day Readmission Review

We continually review and update our payment and utilization policies to ensure that they are designed to comply with industry standards while delivering the best patient experience to our members. Meridian will be implementing a **new 15-Day Readmission Review policy effective on or after 9/30/2026**. Please see the Bulletins page for additional details and policy information.

Wellcare (MAPD and HIDE D-SNP) Updates

Schedule Annual Preventive Care Visits Before Year-End

As year-end approaches, now is the time to **schedule eligible Wellcare and Wellcare By Meridian members for an Annual Wellness Visit (AWV) or Routine Physical Exam (RPE)**. These visits create an opportunity to identify and address care gaps, review medications, complete preventive screenings, and connect members to needed services. **Early scheduling can help ensure members complete recommended care** before year-end. For more information see the Bulletins page.

In Case You Missed It

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

- **Meridian offers grant opportunities of up to \$5,000** to help pediatric, family health, and community providers **become VFC-certified**.
- **Wellcare By Meridian patients have dental benefits** through our partnered dental provider, DentaQuest, covering preventive and restorative services such as routine exams, cleanings, x-rays, fillings, extractions, and more. Patients can contact DentaQuest Member Services or use the Find a Provider tool to find a participating dentist.
- **Recent Prior Authorization, Billing, and Policy Updates:**
 - Evolent Prior Authorization Updates – Effective 1/1/2027
 - Medicaid Prior Authorization Updates (multiple specialties) – Effective 10/1/2026
 - Lupron (Leuprolide) Prior Authorization Update – Effective 8/11/2026
- **Pharmacy Updates and Resources**
 - **A New Formulary Search tool** is available on the Provider Pharmacy page.
 - See the ongoing reminders page for an overview of Pharmacy Benefits including details on the MDHHS Michigan Medicaid Single Preferred Drug List (SPDL) and Common Formulary
 - Please review the **Diabetic Supply Reference Guide**, which has been updated as of February 2026