

COVID-19 PRIVATE DUTY NURSING PRIOR AUTHORIZATION GUIDELINES

The following are temporary provisions that are in effect as of dates specified below as part of COVID-19 pandemic response. All changes will be reviewed periodically and changes/terminations communicated via an update to this guideline.

Private Duty Nursing Prior Authorization Modifications

HHO will implement the following changes regarding prior authorizations specific to private duty nursing (PDN) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These changes are effective as of April 1, 2020 and being applied retrospectively as appropriate. Due to the rapidity in which HHO is responding to COVID-19 and adjusting policies, some claims adjustments may be required.

1. Existing Approved PDN Authorizations

- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Highmark Health Options will waive the requirements for clinical documentation for members that are currently approved for Private Duty Nursing (PDN) services. Existing authorizations will be extended as outlined below:

2. Quarterly Reviews

- Existing authorizations that are due for a quarterly review will be approved for **180 days** from the date of expiration
- No clinical documentation will be required during this timeframe
- If an annual Letter of Medical Necessity (LOMN) is due during this extension period, the new annual review date will be moved to the end of the extension period provided.

3. Annual Reviews

- Annual reviews completed in April 2020 will be extended for **180 days**

4. New PDN Requests

- New requests received for Private Duty Nursing services during the COVID-19 pandemic will be reviewed for medical necessity by a Medical Director under the current Highmark Health Options PDN guidelines/policies.
- If the request is approved, the authorization will be extended for **180 days** under the COVID-19 prior authorization guidelines.