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## New Payment Policy for Outpatient Physical and Occupational Rehabilitation Services

### September 18, 2020

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island (Neighborhood) has revised its payment policy for [Outpatient Physical and Occupational Rehabilitation Services](#) for all lines of business (Medicaid, Commercial, and INTEGRITY), effective October 1, 2020.

Outpatient rehabilitation therapy services must relate directly and specifically to a written treatment plan (also known as the plan of care or plan of treatment) and the services must be performed by a contracted Physical or Occupational Therapist or a contracted Therapy group in order to be reimbursed. The new policy also includes procedures for Physical Therapy Assistants (PTAs) and Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTAs).

#### **Medicaid**

Effective October 1, 2020, there is a benefit limit for Medicaid members requiring physical therapy (PT) and occupational therapy (OT).

- PT is covered without a prior authorization and is limited to 24 sessions per rolling year.
- OT is covered without a prior authorization and is limited to 24 sessions per rolling year.

#### **Commercial and INTEGRITY**

The benefit coverage and payment policy remains unchanged at this time for Commercial and INTEGRITY members.

- PT is covered without prior authorization for the initial evaluation and 8 PT sessions per plan/calendar year. Any additional sessions require a prior authorization.
- OT is covered without prior authorization for the initial evaluation and 8 OT sessions per plan/calendar year. Any additional sessions require a prior authorization.

Please review the [Outpatient Physical and Occupational Rehabilitation Services Payment Policy](#) in full and contact Neighborhood with any questions.

#### **Speech Therapy Services**

Similar to OT and PT services, effective October 1, 2020, there will now be a benefit limit for Medicaid members requiring speech therapy (ST).

- ST is covered without a prior authorization and is limited to 24 sessions per rolling year.

The benefit coverage and payment policy remains unchanged at this time for Commercial and INTEGRITY members.

- ST is covered without prior authorization for the initial evaluation and 8 ST sessions per plan/calendar year. Any additional sessions require a prior authorization.

All Neighborhood payment policies can be found on the Neighborhood website in the [Billing Guidelines and Payment Policies](#) section. The payment policy for Speech Therapy will be posted to the website by October 1, 2020.