

Effective January 1, 2021 - Updated Payment Policy for Outpatient Physical and Occupational Therapy

November 1, 2020

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island (Neighborhood) recently revised its payment policy for Outpatient Physical and Occupational Rehabilitation Services.

Medicaid

As a reminder, effective October 1, 2020, the following changes took place 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.

Similar coverage limitations will take place for INTEGRITY and Commercial members, effective January 1, 2021. See below for more details:

INTEGRITY

Effective January 1, 2021, the following will take place for INTEGRITY members requiring physical therapy (PT) and occupational therapy (OT).

- PT is covered without prior authorization for 24 sessions per calendar year. Any additional sessions will require a prior authorization.
- OT is covered without prior authorization for 24 sessions per calendar year. Any additional sessions will require a prior authorization.

Commercial

Effective January 1, 2021, the following will take place for Commercial members requiring physical therapy (PT) and occupational therapy (OT).

- PT is covered without prior authorization and is limited to 24 sessions per calendar/plan year
- OT is covered without prior authorization and is limited to 24 sessions per calendar/plan year.

The current Outpatient Physical and Occupational Rehabilitation Services payment policy will be revised and published on nhpri.org prior to January 1, 2021. All Neighborhood payment policies can be found on the Neighborhood website in the [Billing Guidelines and Payment Policies](#) section for providers.