
Effective January 1, 2021 - Revised Payment Policies for Outpatient Physical and Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy Services (Medicaid Only)

December 10, 2020

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island (Neighborhood) formerly announced that as of October 1, 2020, the benefit limit for **Medicaid** members requiring physical therapy (PT) and occupational therapy (OT), as well as, speech therapy (ST), changed to the following:

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

Effective January 1, 2021, the benefit limit for Medicaid members requiring PT, OT, or ST will be 24 visits per calendar year (instead of the current “rolling” year). All services will continue to be covered without prior authorization.

As a reminder, 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 PT, OT, ST:

- 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.
- ST 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 PT, OT, ST:

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

The current payment policies for [Outpatient Physical and Occupational Rehabilitation Services](#) and [Speech Therapy Services](#) 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.