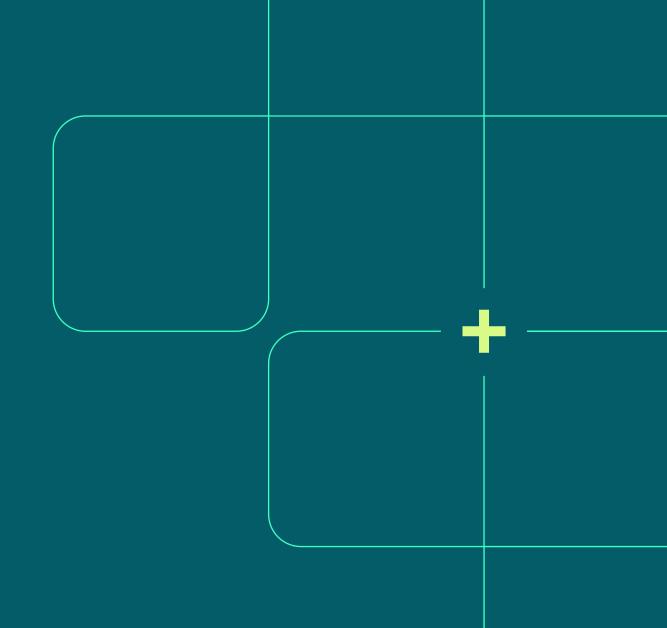
# Post-Acute Care Utilization Management Program

# Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois

**Provider Orientation** 



# Agenda

- Post-Acute Care Program Overview
- Pre-Authorization Requirements
- Denial and Appeals Process
- Submitting Precertification Requests
- Provider Resources
- Provider Portal Overview
- Q&A



# Post-Acute Care Program Overview





# **EviCore by Evernorth PAC Program Overview**

EviCore will accept initial and concurrent benefit preauthorization request for member admissions to the following Inpatient Post-Acute Care (PAC) facilities:

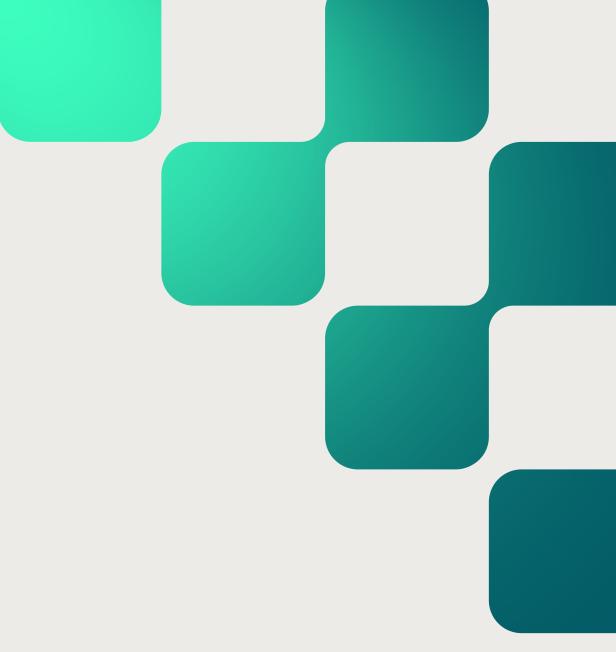
### Precertification applies to the following services:

- Skilled nursing facilities (SNF)
- Inpatient rehabilitation facilities (IRF)
- Long-term acute care facilities (LTAC)

- Hospitals are responsible to submit the initial post-acute care pre-authorization request.
- PAC facilities (listed above) are responsible to submit date extensions (PAC concurrent review)
- Custodial Care does not require pre-authorization by EviCore and will continue to be managed by BCBSIL
- Once the patient is discharged from the post-acute facility, the patient will be referred to BCBSIL for continued care management services.



# Pre-Authorization Requirements





# **EviCore Pre-Authorization Requirements**

EviCore manages all Inpatient Post-Acute Care (PAC) preauthorization requests for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBSIL) members enrolled in the following programs:

### Medicare

- Blue Cross Medicare Advantage (PPO)<sup>SM</sup>
- Blue Cross Community MMAI (Medicare-Medicaid Plan)<sup>SM</sup> Non-Delegated as of 01/01/2026
- Blue Cross Medicare Advantage HMO
- Illinois Individual Medicare HMO
- Illinois Individual Medicare PPO
- Illinois Group Medicare PPO

### To verify eligibility and benefits:

- Providers should verify member eligibility and benefits on: <a href="https://www.availity.com">https://www.availity.com</a>
- Eligibility may also be verified on the EviCore provider portal <a href="https://www.evicore.com/pages/providerlogin.aspx">https://www.evicore.com/pages/providerlogin.aspx</a>



# Initial Post-Acute Care Admission Requests Pre- Authorization Overview

### **Hospital initiates pre-authorization requests:**

• The hospital is responsible to submit post-acute care pre-authorization requests, unless the post-acute care facility (i.e. IRF) has the same NPI or Tax ID # EviCore requests that you start the process as soon as possible to facilitate a timely pre-authorization determination

# Discharge Planning

- Begins on day 1 of Hospital admission
- Hospital staff makes a recommendation for postacute level of care

### Contact EviCore

 Provide pre-authorization form and clinical information to support medical necessity for admission to post-acute level of care

# Utilization Management

- Three outcomes:
- Approval of pre-authorization for level of care request
- Request for additional clinical information
- Unable to approve on initial UM review

Our goal is a 24-48
hour response time;
add an additional 2
business days if a peer
to peer review is
requested, however
our typical
response time is less



# Post-Acute Care Facility Pre-Authorization Overview

### EviCore will provide pre-authorizations by facility type in the following ways:

Pre-Authorization	Skilled Nursing Facility	Inpatient Rehab Facility	Long Term Acute Care
Initial	5 business days	5 calendar days	5 calendar days
Concurrent	7 calendar days	5 calendar days	7 calendar days

### > Pre-Authorization Expiration

- The initial pre-authorization expires 7 days from the date of issue
- If the patient is not discharged within this time frame, a new pre-authorization is required

### > Once Determination is Complete:

- A notification will be communicated to the requesting provider
- Servicing providers may obtain pre-authorizations via the EviCore web portal or by calling EviCore at:
   855-252-1117

### Post-Acute Care Pre-Authorization Criteria includes, but not limited to:

- The applicable benefit plan manual and McKesson IQ Guidelines
- Medicare Benefit Policy Manuals & Clinical Findings



# Date extension (PAC concurrent review) Requests Overview

- The PAC facility is responsible to submit date extension (concurrent review) requests
- EviCore requests that you start the date extension review process as soon as possible to facilitate a timely 'extension of pre-authorization' determination

# Plan of Care & Discharge Planning

- Begins on day 1 of Post-Acute Care admission
- Care management team completes evaluations and begins to develop a plan of care

### Contact EviCore

- Provide pre-authorization form and clinical information to support medical necessity for postacute level of care
- SNF Facilities should submit clinical for date extension (PAC concurrent review) pre-authorization requests 72 hours prior to the last covered day

# Utilization Management

- Three outcomes:
  - Approval of pre-authorization for level of care request
  - Request for additional clinical information
  - Unable to extend authorization
  - The provider is responsible to issue the NOMNC, have it signed and returned to EviCore

Our goal is a 24-48 hour response time, once clinical information is received; add an additional 2 business days if a peer to peer review is requested, however our typical response time is less



# Rationale for Hospital Submission of PAC Precertification Requests

### Appropriate Level of Care Determination:

- Hospitals present the most accurate clinical status for discharging patients
- Engagement with discharge planners to determine appropriate level based on medical necessity
- Patient-Centered alternative PAC setting recommendations
- Hospitals are encouraged to submit an authorization request at the same time they are sending clinical to a PAC facility to obtain a bed. The authorization for PAC is tied to the level of care, not a specific facility.

#### Coordinated Post-Acute Care Placement:

- Proactively identify facility for optimal outcomes and patient experience
- Early initiation of plan of care with goals and risk assessment by EviCore staff members
- Offer social work coordination to address discharge barriers

#### Medicare PAC Guidance:

 Medicare's position on PAC placement provides guidance for the least intensive setting to adequately meet the patient's needs.

### Post-Acute Care Prior Authorization Criteria includes, but not limited to:

- Medicare Benefit Policy Manuals (Medicare members only)
- MCG<sup>™</sup> evidence-based care guidelines®
- Other Evidence-Based Tools



# Submitting Precertification Requests





# **Methods to Submit Precertification Requests**

**EviCore Provider Portal (preferred)** 

The EviCore online portal is the quickest, most efficient way to request precertification and check status.

+https://www.evicore.com/pages/providerlogin.aspx

+https://www.availity.com

### Fax:

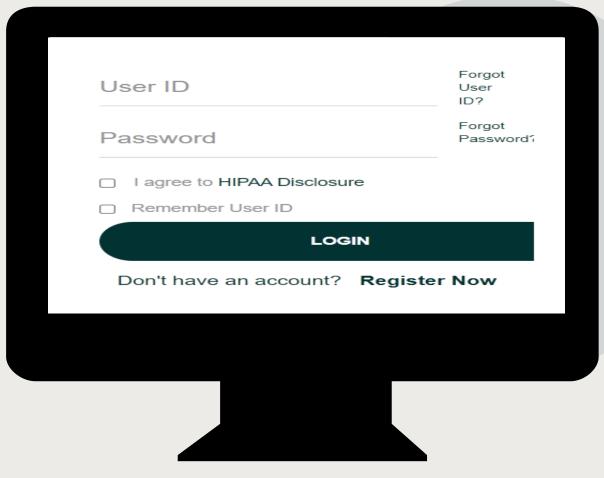
855.826.3725
Precertification
requests are
accepted via fax
and can be used to
submit additional
clinical information.

### Phone:

855.252.1117

Hours of operation

- Monday Friday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
   CST
- Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST
- Sunday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. CST
- Holidays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. CST
- 24 hour on call coverage





# Required Information for Initial Post-Acute Care Precertification Requests



- Facility type being requested
- Accepting facility demographics (if known)
- Patient demographics
- Anticipated date of hospital, LTAC, or IRF discharge (if applicable)



- Hospital admitting diagnosis
- History and physical
- Progress notes, i.e., attending physician, consults & surgical (if applicable)
- Medication list
- Wound or Incision/location and stage (if applicable)



- Prior and current level of functioning
- Prior living situation
- Current therapy evaluations: PT/OT/ST (Within 24-48 hours of request)
- Therapy progress notes, including level of participation

Please note: EviCore precertification form and supporting clinical documentation are required for all post-acute care requests.



### Required Information for Date Extensions

# (PAC concurrent review requests)



- Facility name, name of case manager, contact phone number and fax
- Patient demographics
- Number of days and dates requested
- PAC physician demographics
- Anticipated date of discharge



**Clinical Information** 

- Hospital admitting diagnosis and ICD10 code
- Clinical Progress Notes
- Medication list
- Wound or Incision/location and stage (if applicable)
- Discharge summary (when available)



- Prior and current level of functioning
- Focused therapy goals: PT/OT/ST
- Therapy progress notes, including level of participation
- Discharge plans (include discharge barriers, if applicable)

Please note: EviCore precertification form and supporting clinical documentation are required for all post-acute care requests.



# Precertification Outcomes and Special Considerations





### **Precertification Approval**

### **Approved Requests**

- Standard requests are processed within 48 hours **after** receipt of <u>all</u> necessary clinical information
- Authorization letters will be faxed to the requesting provider and can be printed on demand from the EviCore portal at <a href="https://www.evicore.com/pages/providerlogin.aspx">https://www.evicore.com/pages/providerlogin.aspx</a>
- Customers will receive an authorization letter by mail





# **Precertification Approval**

### **Approved Requests**

Two Potential Scenarios & Outcomes:

- 1. PAC facility known: Precertification number issued to requesting and servicing provider
- 2. PAC facility NOT known: Precertification number issued to requesting provider only
- 3. Initial precertification's are valid for 7 calendar days to help acute providers (hospitals) with discharge planning and to enable them to request authorization well before the expected acute discharge date.



Precertification	Skilled nursing facility	Inpatient rehab facility	Long-term acute care
Initial	Five (5) calendar days	Five (5) calendar days	Five (5) calendar days





# Determination Outcomes: Unable to Approve/Alternate Recommendation

### Unable to approve

- When a request does not meet criteria during nurse review, it goes to second-level MD review.
- If the MD is unable to approve the request based on the information provided, notification is made to the requesting provider.
- The provider is given the option to either send additional information to support medical necessity or schedule a clinical consultation.
- \*Important: If this option is not utilized by the requesting provider within one business day, an adverse determination is made and the request is denied.

#### **Alternate Recommendation**

- The EviCore MD may also offer an alternate recommendation. The requesting provider can either accept or reject the alternate recommendation or schedule a clinical consultation.
- The ordering provider has up to 48 hours to accept the alternate recommendation
- If accepted, the initial requested service will be denied, and the alternate recommendation will be approved





### **Precertification Outcomes - Adverse Determination**



- When a request does not meet medical necessity based on evidence-based guidelines, an adverse determination is made and the request is denied
- The Notice of Medicare Non-Coverage (NOMNC) will be issued no later than 2 calendar days prior to the discontinuation of coverage
- In those cases, a denial letter with the rationale for the decision and appeal rights will be issued by EviCore to the ordering physician, requesting provider and customer
- Adverse determinations letters can be printed on demand from the EviCore portal at

https://www.evicore.com/pages/providerlogin.aspx



# **Clinical Consultation Requests**

### Unable to approve

- If we are unable to approve a request with the provided information, we offer clinical consultations with the referring physician and an EviCore Medical Director
- A clinical consultation/peer to peer (P2P) may be requested by calling EviCore at 855.252.1117 or 800.298.4806. Medical Directors are available for Clinical Consultations 365 days a year. The P2P must be requested within 1 day of the denial and must occur within 2 business days.
- Clinical consultations, after an *Unable to Approve* decision has been made, may result in either a reversal of the decision to deny or an uphold of the original decision



#### **Adverse determination**

- For adverse determinations or final denials, providers can request a clinical consultation with an EviCore physician to better understand the reason for denial.
- Once a final denial decision has been made, however, the decision cannot be overturned via a clinical consultation.



### **Special Circumstances**

### **Urgent precertification requests**

- EviCore uses the NCQA/URAC definition of urgent: when a delay
- In decision-making may seriously jeopardize the life or health of the customer
- Can be initiated by phone (recommended) or fax
- Urgent requests will be reviewed within 72 hours for Medicare patients.





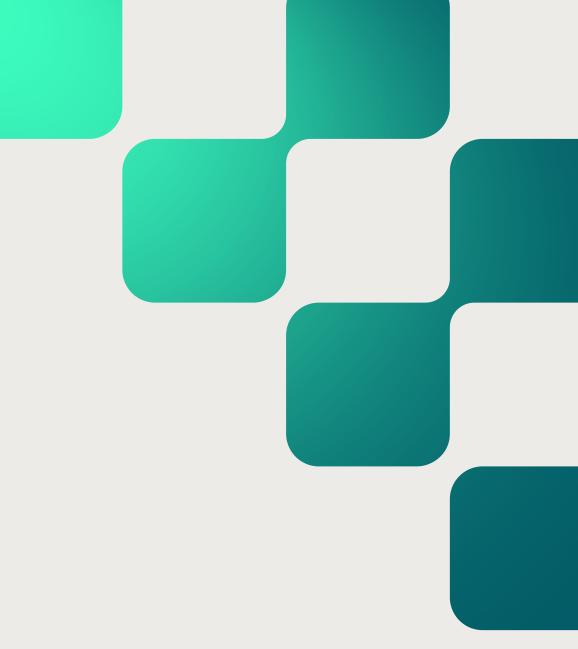
### **Post-Decision Options: Appeals Process**

### **Appeals Process**

- BCBSIL will process first-level appeals. Delegation of second-level appeals will vary by plan and/or state regulations
- The timeframe to submit an appeal request will be outlined on the determination letter \*
  - Appeal requests can be submitted by the following methods:
  - Medicaid appeal requests may be submitted to: <u>GPDA&G@bcbsil.com</u>
  - Medicare appeal requests may be submitted to: mapdanadg@bcbsnm.com
  - Members requesting to appeal a denial for initial PAC services should contact BCBSIL. Instructions are provided on the denial letter.
- Appeal turnaround times:\*
  - Expedited 72 hours
  - Standard provider 30 days



# Provider Resources





### **Dedicated Call Center**

### Precertification Call Center – 855.252.1117

• To reach a customer service representative, please call our call center at 855.252.1117 and choose option 4, and option 4 again.

Then follow the additional prompts below to speak to the right person:

- Medicare, press 1
- Medicaid, press 2
- Pediatric Medicaid, press 3

Note: If the start of care date on the post-acute care authorization changes, we recommend communicating this to EviCore to ensure the dates of service match the claim.

To ensure you have a successful experience in reaching the desired representative, please listen carefully to the phone prompts when calling the EviCore authorization call center.





# **Client & Provider Operations Team**

### **Client and Provider Services**

- Dedicated team to address provider-related requests and concerns including:
- Questions regarding accuracy assessment
- Requests for a precertification to be resent to the health plan
- Consumer engagement Inquiries
- Eligibility issues (customer, rendering facility, or ordering physician)
- Issues experienced during case creation

### How to contact our Client and Provider Services team

Email: <u>ClientServices@evicore.com</u> (preferred)

Phone: 800-646-0418 Option 4

For prompt service, please have all pertinent information available. When emailing, make sure to include "Blue Cross Blue Shield IL PAC health plan" in the subject line with a description of the issue; include customer, provider and case details when applicable.





### **Provider Resource Website**

### **Client Specific Provider Resource Site**

EviCore's Provider Experience team maintains provider resource pages that contain educational materials to assist providers and their staff on a daily basis. The provider resource page will include, but is not limited to, the following educational materials:

- Provider Training Documents
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Documents
- Quick Reference Guides (QRG)
- Precertification forms

### To access these helpful resources, please visit

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois - Medicaid/Medicare Plans Provider
Resources | EviCore by Evernorth





# **EviCore Provider Portal**





### **Benefits of Provider Portal**

Did you know that most providers are already saving time submitting precertification requests online? The provider portal allows you to go from request to decision much faster. Following are some benefits and features:

- Saves time: Quicker process than telephone precertification requests.
- Available 24/7: You can access the portal any time, any day.
- Upload additional clinical information: No need to fax supporting clinical documentation; it can be uploaded on the portal to support a new request or when additional information is requested.
- View and print determination information.
- Check case status in real-time.

### Link to EviCore provider portal:

https://www.evicore.com/pages/providerlogin.aspx



### **Provider Portal – Web Browser Compatibility**

The EviCore website is compatible with the following web browsers:

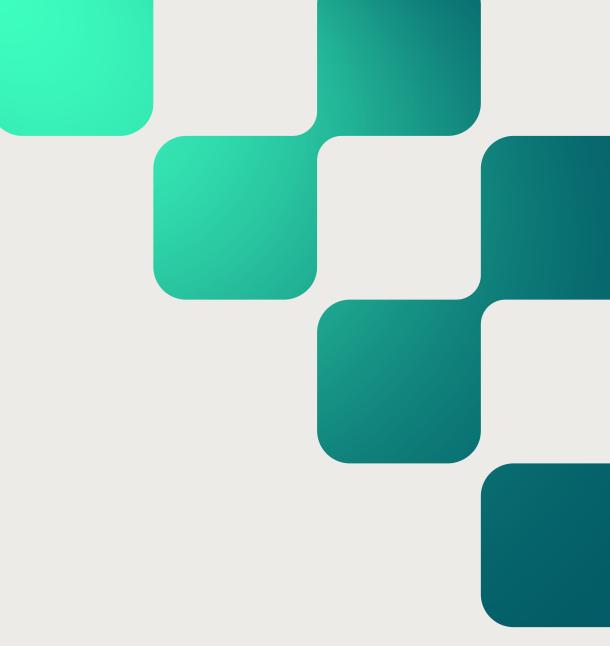
- Google Chrome
- Mozilla Firefox
- Microsoft Edge

The EviCore website is **not** compatible with the following web browsers:

- Internet Explorer
- Microsoft Edge under Internet Explorer Mode



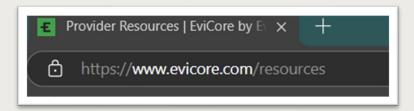
# EviCore Portal Registration





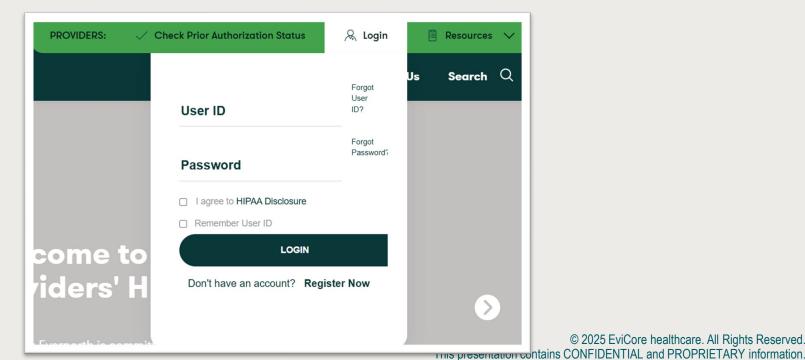
# **EviCore Provider Portal Registration**

Web browser to EviCore.com.





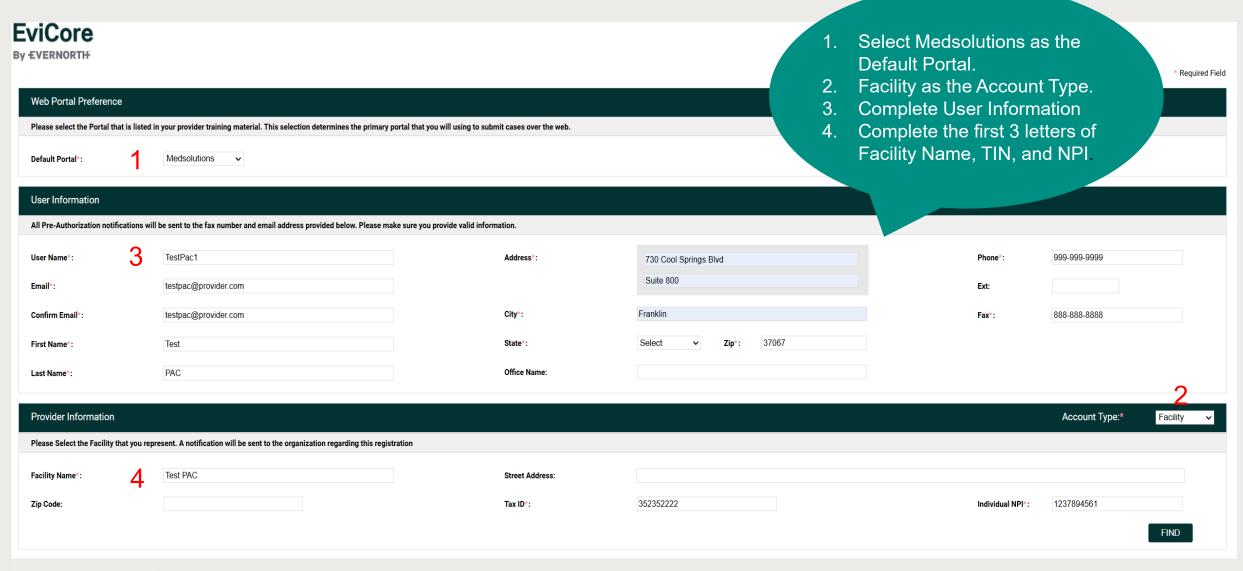
Login or Register





© 2025 EviCore healthcare. All Rights Reserved.

**Select Default Portal and Account Type** 





# **User Registration Successful**

### **EviCore**

By EVERNORTH

#### Registration Successful

Your Registration has been accepted. An email has been sent to your registered email account allowing you to set your password. Please close the browser.

You will receive a message on the screen confirming your registration is successful. You will be sent an email to create your password.

#### Create a Password

Password must be at least 8 characters long and contain the following:

- ✓ Uppercase Letters
- √ Lowercase Letters
- ✓ Numbers
- √ Characters (e.g., !#\*)

#### **800-646-0418**

Legal Disclaimer | Privacy Policy | Terms Of Use | Site Specific Terms | Corporate Website | Report Fraud & Abuse | Guidelines and Forms | Contact Us

© 2025 eviCore healthcare. All Rights Reserved



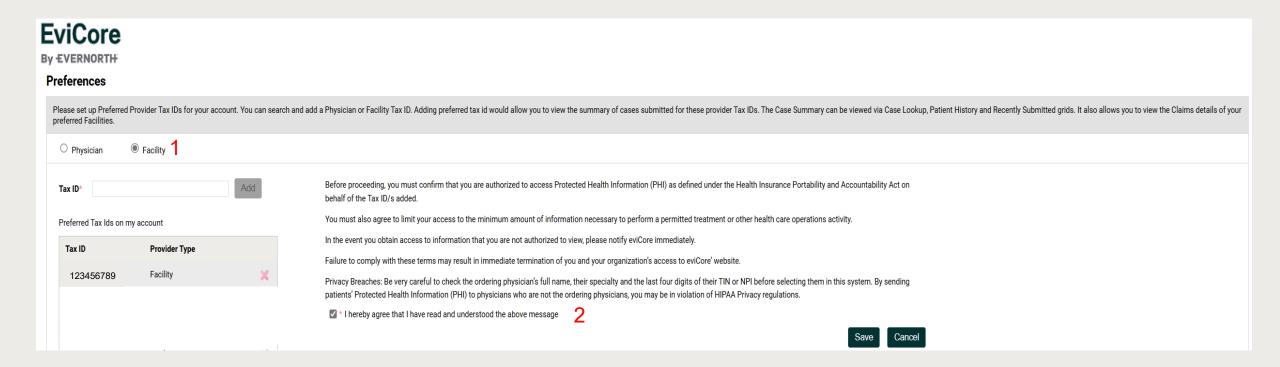
# **Option Tool**



- + The Options Tool allows you to access your Account Settings to update information:
- Change password
- Update user account information (address, phone number, etc.)
- Set up preferred Tax ID numbers of Facilities and view a summary of cases for providers with affiliated Tax ID numbers

EviCore
By EVERNORTH

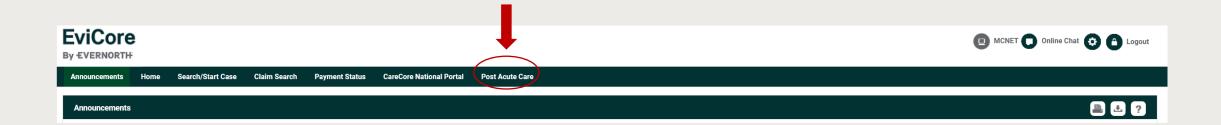
### **Option Tool - Preferences**



- + Adding **Preferred Tax ID numbers** will allow you to view the summary of cases submitted for those providers:
- Search for a Tax ID by clicking Physician or Facility.
- 2. Confirm you are authorized to access PHI by clicking the check box and hit Save.



### **Announcements**



Once you have logged in to the site, you will be directed to the main landing or Announcement page.

\*\* Make sure to choose Post Acute
Care \*\*

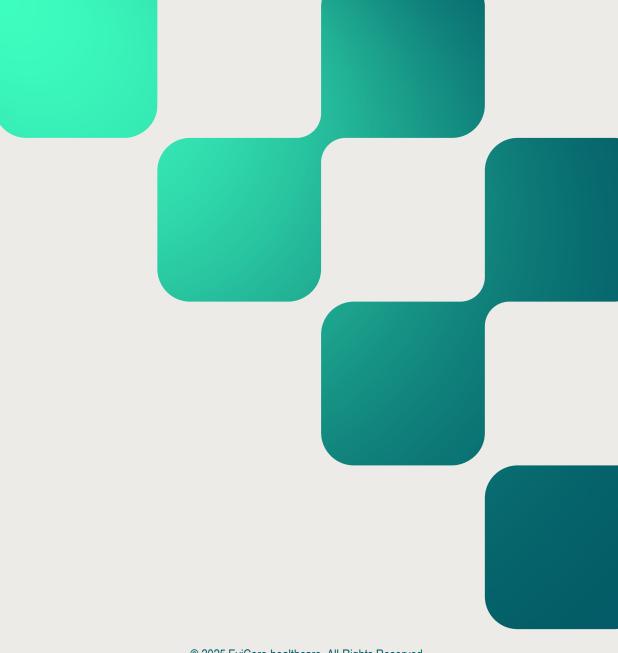
Web Support 800-646-0418

Legal Disclaimer | Privacy Policy | Terms Of Use | Site Specific Terms | Corporate Website | Report Fraud & Abuse | Guidelines and Forms | Contact Us

© 2025 eviCore healthcare. All Rights Reserved.



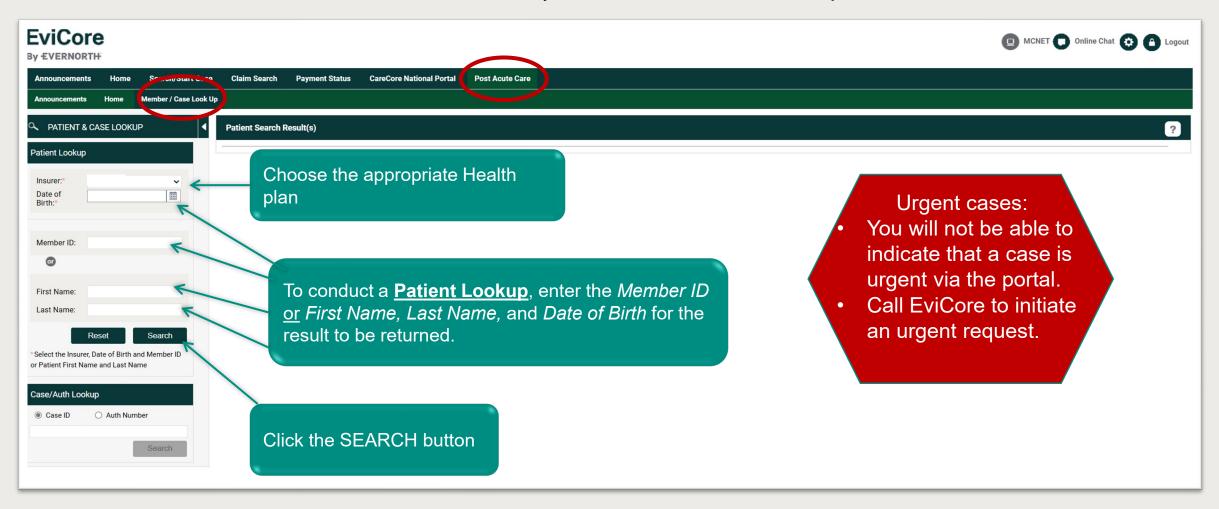
# Initial Case Creation





#### **Initiate Case Process**

To initiate a new case for PAC authorization. On the Post Acute Care tab, you will start with Member/Case Look Up.

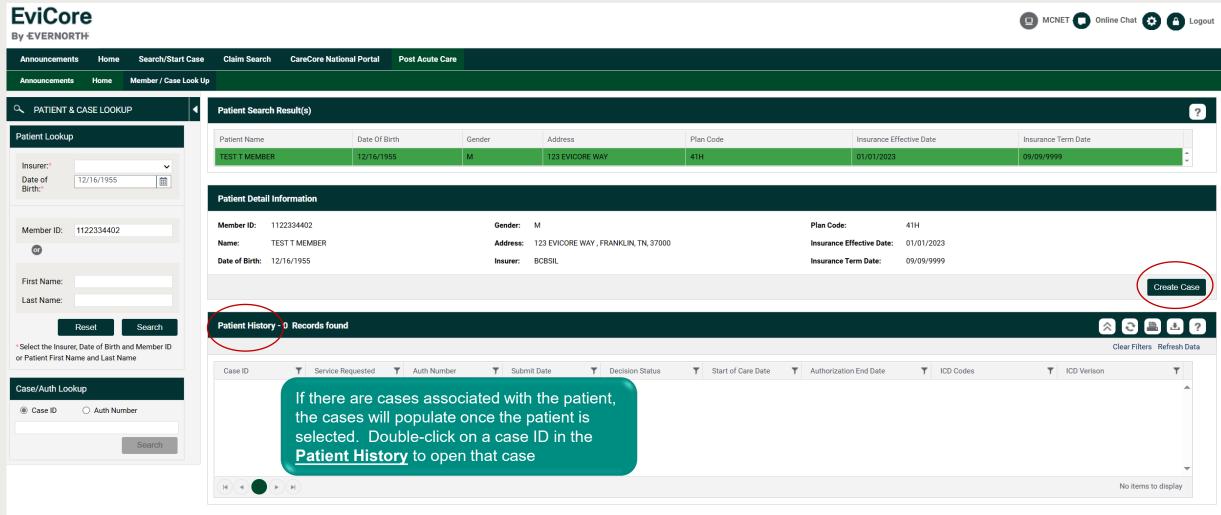




#### **Create a Case**

Once you choose your member, the member's name and demographics will be listed with the insurance effective dates.

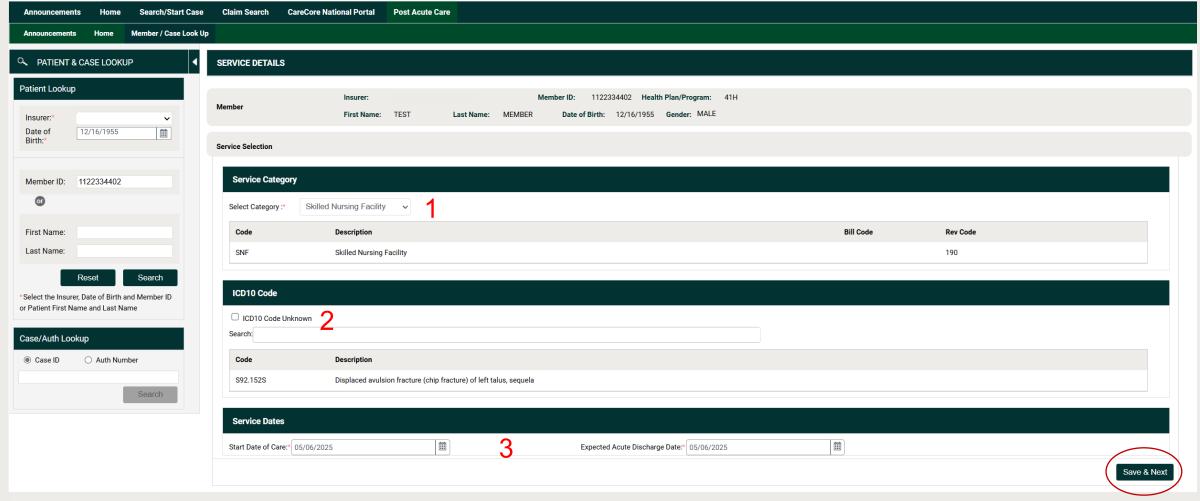
Click the Create Case button.





#### **Create a Case – Enter Service Details**

- 1. Choose a Service Category from the drop-down box, such as Skilled Nursing Facility, Inpatient Rehab Facility, or Long term Acute Care.
- 2. Enter the ICD10 Code. If you do not know the ICD10 code, type the name of the diagnosis, and a list with a corresponding ICD10 code will populate.
- 3. Enter the PAC Start of Care Date and Expected Acute Care (or Hospital) Discharge Date.. Review the information again to make sure that you have completed all of the service details correctly. To save the service details, click the "Save & Next" button





# **Create a Case – Ordering Physician**

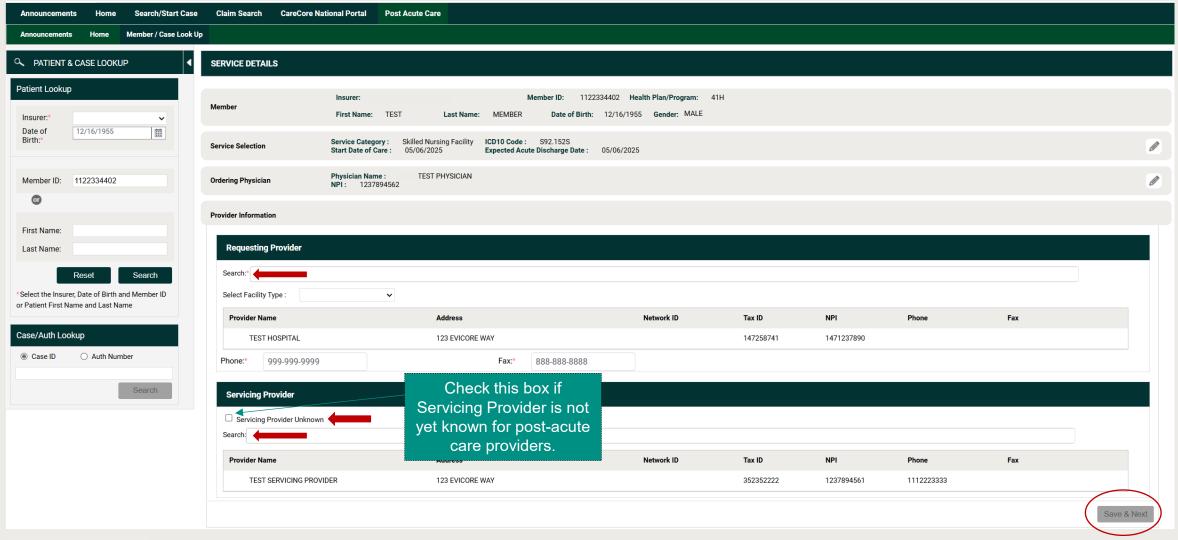
1. Enter the **Ordering Physician** details. If you do not know the NPI number, start typing the provider name, and the corresponding NPI number will auto-populate and allow you to select the correct provider. To save the provider details, click the **"Save & Next"** button

Announcements Home Search/Start Case	e Claim Search CareCore I	National Portal Post Acute Care	
Announcements Home Member / Case Look	Up		
○ PATIENT & CASE LOOKUP	SERVICE DETAILS		
Patient Lookup	Member	Insurer: Member ID: 1122334402 Health Plan/Program: 41H  First Name: TEST Last Name: MEMBER Date of Birth: 12/16/1955 Gender: MALE	
Date of Birth:*	Service Selection	Service Category: Skilled Nursing Facility Start Date of Care: 05/06/2025   ICD10 Code: S92.152S   Expected Acute Discharge Date: 05/06/2025	
Member ID: 1122334402	Ordering Physician		
•	Ordering Physician		
First Name:  Last Name:	Search:		
Reset Search *Select the Insurer, Date of Birth and Member ID	NPI 1237894562	Physician Name  TEST PHYSICIAN	
or Patient First Name and Last Name  Case/Auth Lookup		Save & Next	)
Case ID			
Search			



# Create a Case – Requesting and Servicing Provider

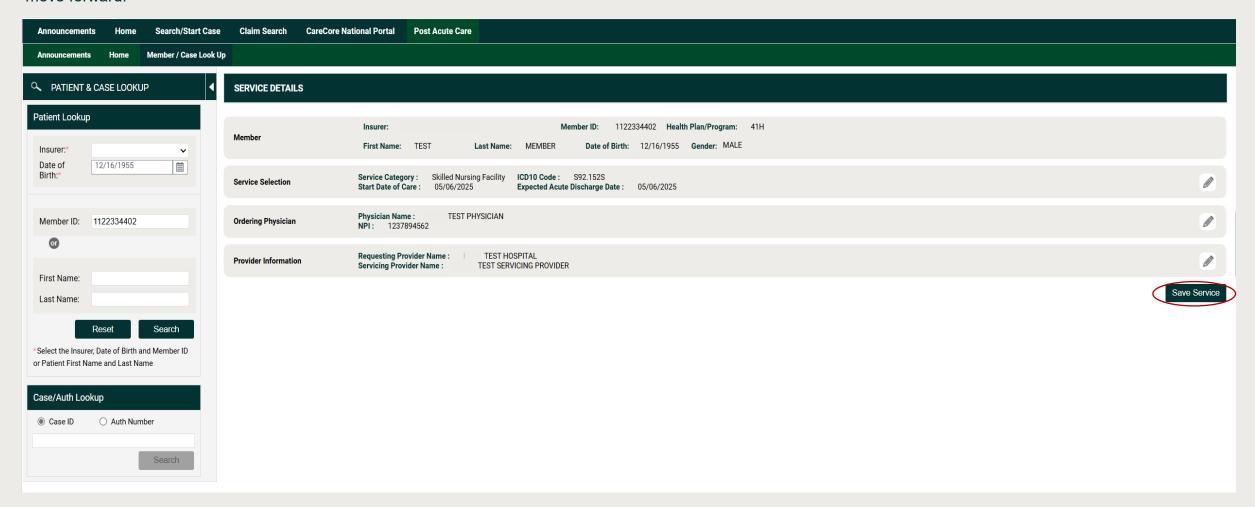
Enter the **Requesting Provider** and **Servicing Provider** details. If you do not know the NPI number, start typing the provider name, and the corresponding NPI number will auto-populate and allow you to select the correct provider. To save the provider details, click the **"Save & Next"** button





## **Create a Case – Verify Details**

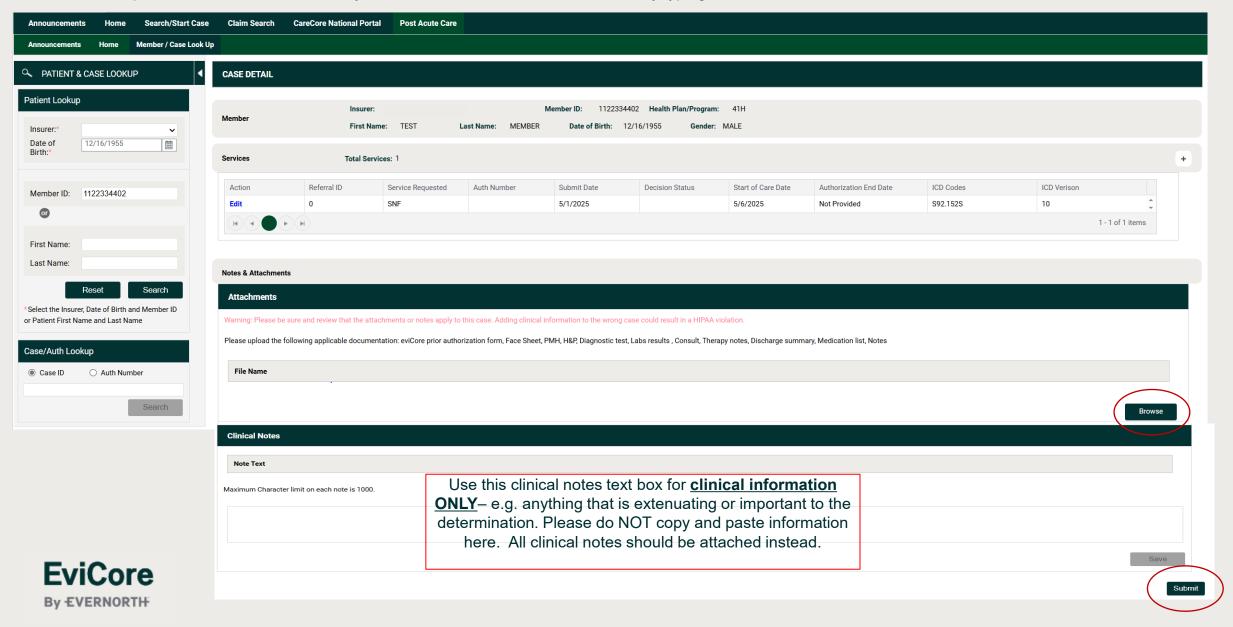
The next screen will show all details related to the service line. This will allow you to review and edit by clicking the "pencil" icon. Click the **Save Service** button to move forward.





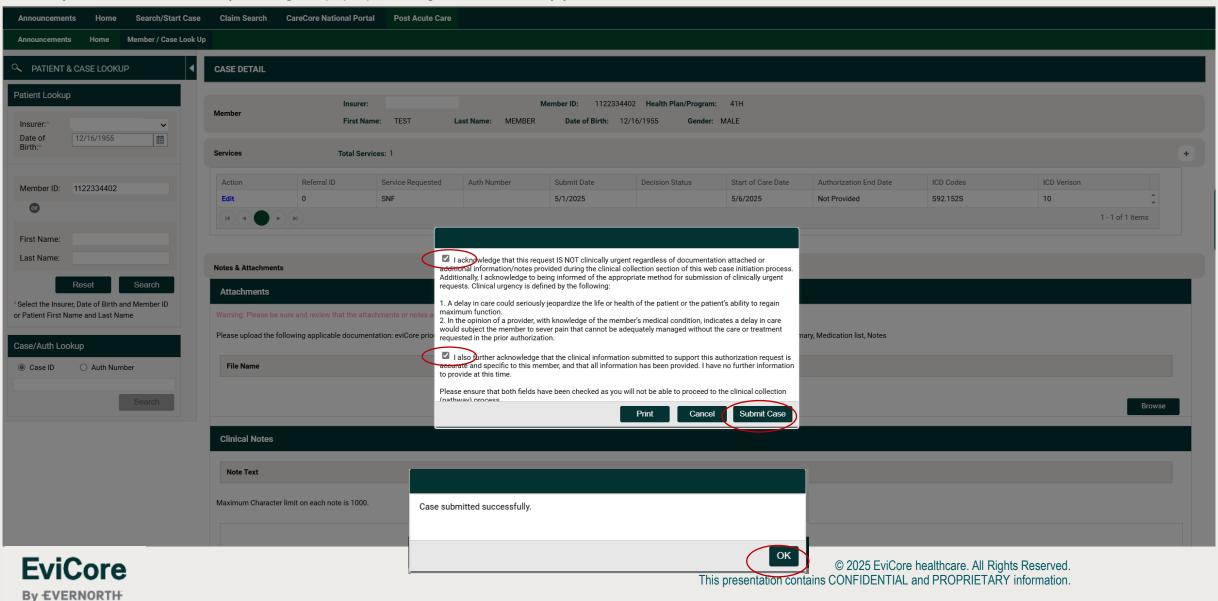
## **Create a Case – Upload Clinicals**

Attach the required clinical documents. Here you will be able to enter additional notes by typing in the Clinical Notes text box.

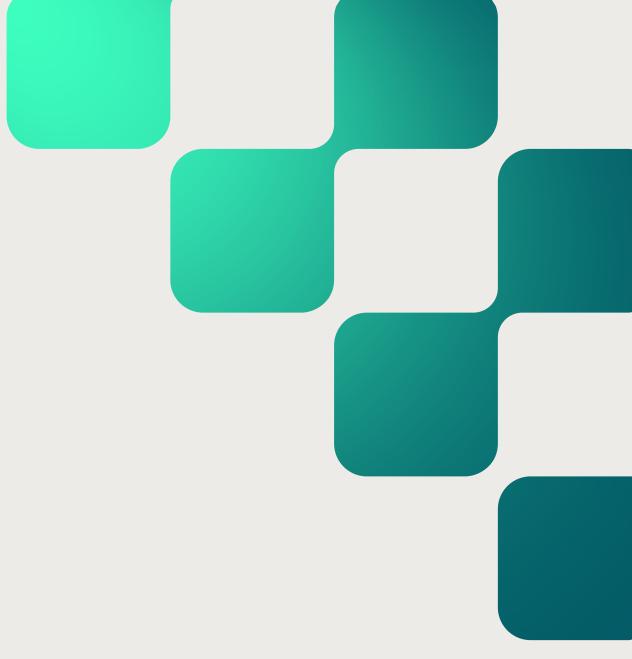


#### Create a Case - Submit Case

Once you Save and Submit, you will get a pop-up message which will verify your Case has been submitted to eviCore for review and authorization determination.



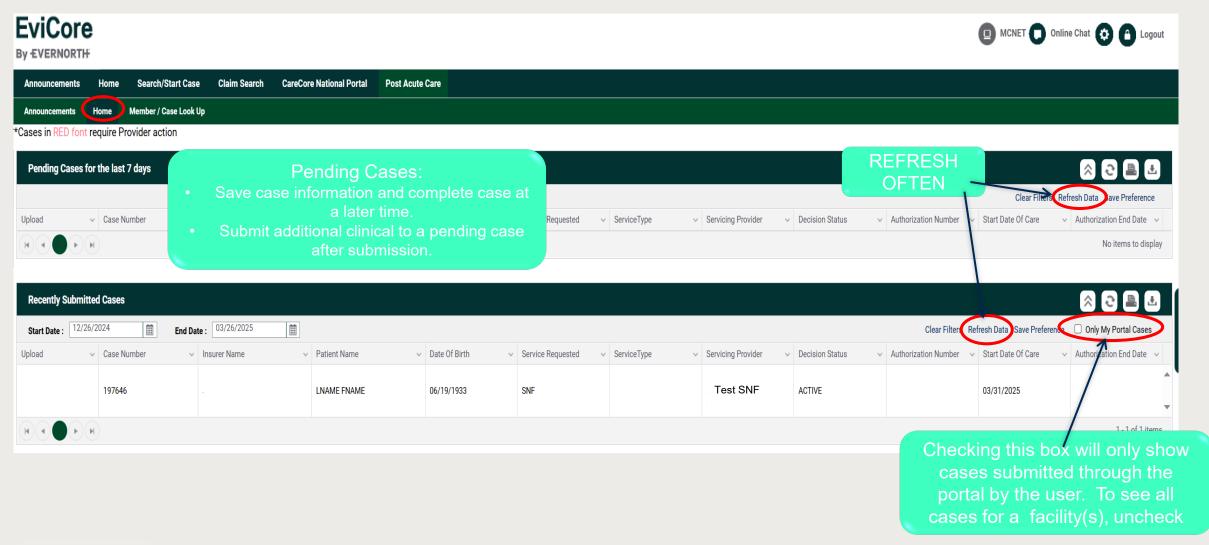
# Searching a Submitted Request





#### **Search Case Status**

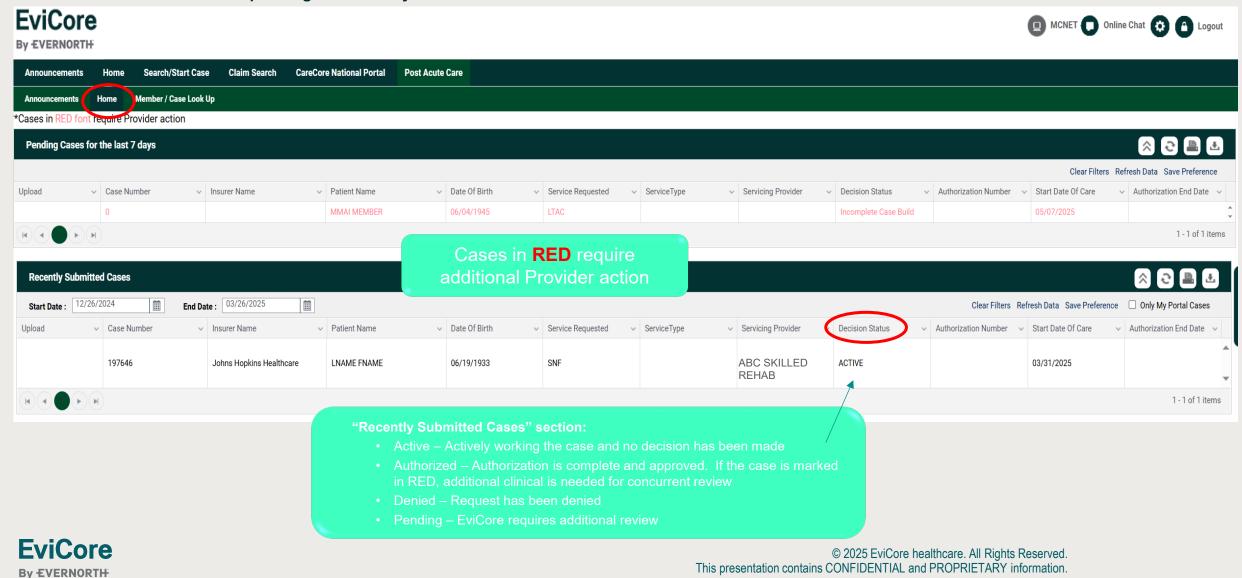
Once a request has been submitted, the member will show up on the user's HOME tab. If you have recently submitted a case, it is important to choose "Refresh Data" for both pending and recently submitted cases. To review case details, double-click on the case.





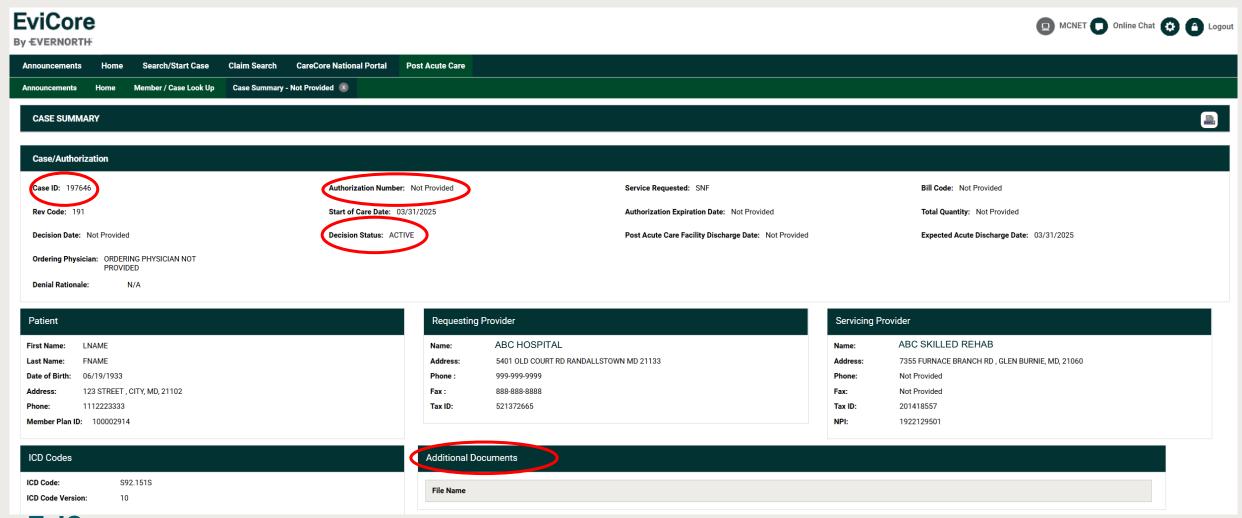
# Search Case Status – Decision Status Descriptions

Once a request has been submitted, the member will show up on the user's HOME tab. If you have recently submitted a case, it is important to choose "Refresh Data" for both pending and recently submitted cases.

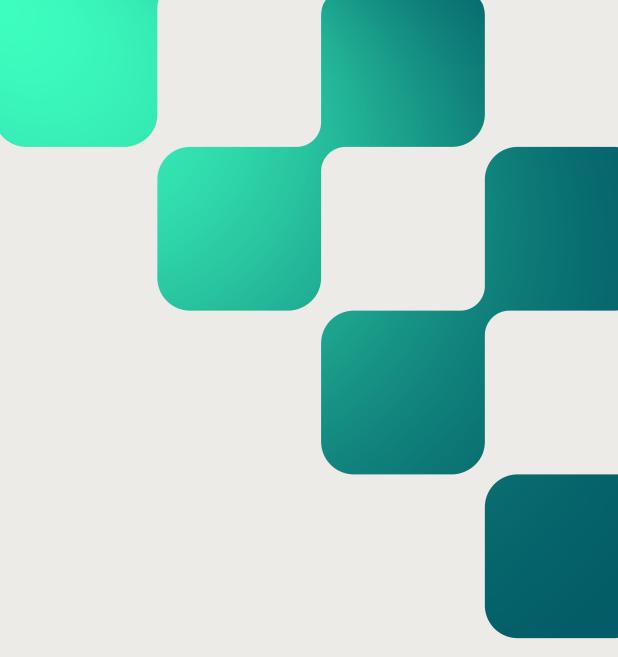


## **Search Case – Case Lookup – Active**

When you open the case, you will see additional Authorization details and Decision Status. Make a note of the Case ID, authorization number if applicable, authorization expiration date, and total quantity approved. Decision letters are posted under the "Additional Documents" tab.



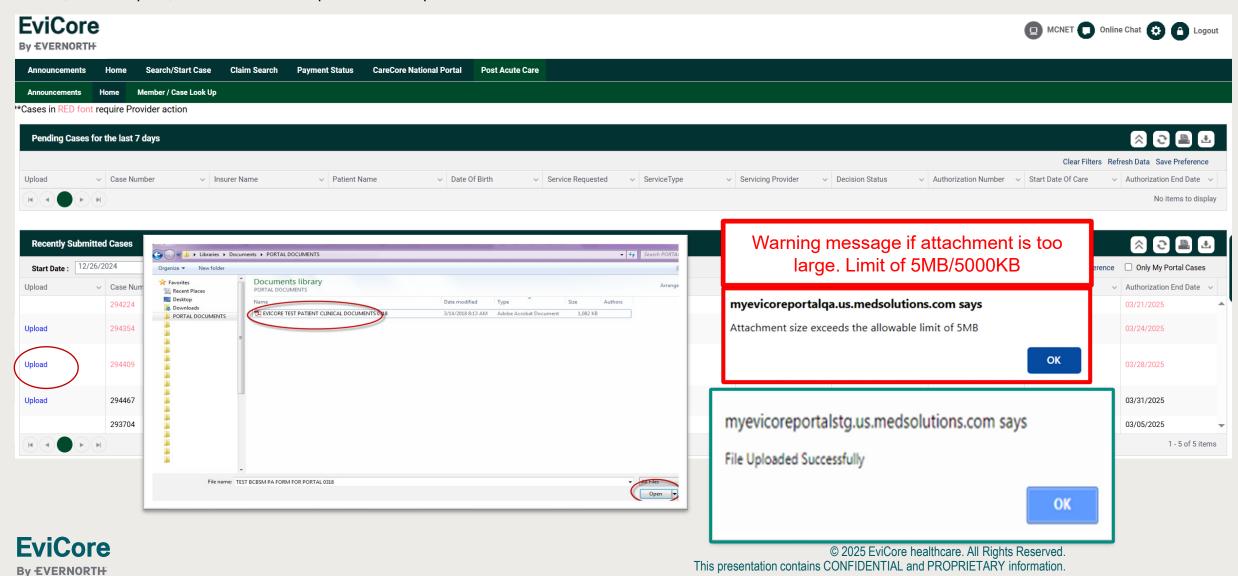
# Concurrent Review Process





#### **Concurrent Review Process**

Return to the Home screen. Under "Recently Submitted Cases", locate the patient whom you would like to upload clinicals. Select the "Upload" link, attach the clinical record, select "Open", and the file will be uploaded to the patient's EviCore chart in real time.



# **EviCore Provider Portal Support**

For EviCore portal account questions - contact a Portal Support Specialist



Call: 800.646.0418 (option 2)



Email: portal.support@EviCore.com

Portal Support Services: Available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. EST



