



# Medicaid Prior Authorization (PA)



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## What is Medicaid Prior Authorization (PA)

PA or Medicaid PA refers to the need to get prior authorization for certain medical goods or services from Medicaid. Private insurers also often require prior authorization for certain goods and services. For example, therapies, like OT, PT, Speech, ABA, etc., often require prior authorizations. Some non-emergency tests, like CT scans, ultrasounds, MRIs, EEGs, etc., require prior authorization. Medical equipment, like wheelchairs and Hoyer Lifts, require prior authorization. Even some medications require prior authorization before a person's health coverage will pay for them.

## I have a Medicaid Waiver. Why do I need to use PA?

A Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid Waiver is intended to supplement services available through Medicaid health coverage, officially called the Medicaid State Plan. Individuals are always supposed to use Medicaid health coverage for services first before the waiver is used to supplement those services. While this is what is supposed to happen, Indiana hasn't always enforced that requirement. Indiana is now enforcing this requirement.

## When is PA Nursing/Home Health Available?

PA Nursing or PA Home Health is available through Medicaid health coverage when it is medically necessary and the primary caregiver is unavailable. While there can be many reasons a caregiver is unavailable, that often means when a primary caregiver is working or going to school. If a family has 3 children under age 6 or 4 children under age 10, they may also be able to qualify for PA Nursing or PA Home Health because the primary caregiver must also provide care for the young children.

While both PA Nursing and PA Home Health are provided by Home Health Agencies, whether a person qualifies for Home Health or Nursing depends on the individual's need. If the support an individual needs requires a Registered Nurse (RN) or a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), an individual would use Nursing Services. If the support an individual needs can be provided by a Home Health Aide, it would be PA Home Health. In-home Occupational, Physical, or Speech Therapies are also billed through PA Home Health.

## Who is qualified to provide PA Nursing/Home Health?

In-home Home Health Therapy Services must be provided by a licensed Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, or Speech-Language Pathologist. Home Health Aide Services are provided by a Home Health Aide under the supervision of an RN. The Home Health Aide can be a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) who has completed the CNA training and competency evaluation and is on the CNA Registry. A Home Health Aide can also undergo a training and competency program, which includes a combination of 75 hours of classroom and supervised practical training or complete a competency evaluation program. They must also complete 12 hours of annual continuing education.

## Can family members provide PA Home Health?

If a family member, including the parent of a minor child, meets the professional criteria to provide Nursing Services or Home Health Services, it may be possible for that family member to be paid through PA Nursing or PA Home Health. All other eligibility requirements, including the need for nursing or home health services, must also be met. Home Health Agencies may also have their own internal policies on family members as providers.

A waiver recipient can be authorized to receive Structured Family Caregiving (SFC) and PA for Home Health. The services can be delivered on the same day but cannot be delivered at the same time. In addition, the services cannot be delivered by the same paid caregiver.

A family member can be a Home Health Aide and provide PA Home Health in a household where another family member provides SFC if those services are not provided at the same moment in time.

## Need Help? Have Questions?

Call 317-977-2375 or 800-382-9100  
and ask to speak with a family advocate

The Arc of Indiana  
[arcind.org](http://arcind.org)