AmeriHealth Caritas
District of Columbia

To: **AmeriHealth Caritas DC Providers**

Date: **October 29, 2026**

Subject: **CMS Interoperability and Prior Authorization Requirements**

Summary: CMS Interoperability Requirements take effect January 1, 2027. Providers should begin preparing by working with their EHR and technology vendors to ensure readiness for electronic prior authorization and healthcare data exchange requirements under CMS-0057-F. Additional guidance and training resources will be provided as they become available.

Action Needed Before January 1, 2027
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Interoperability and Prior Authorization Final Rule (CMS-0057-F) establishes new requirements designed to improve healthcare data sharing and streamline prior authorization processes.

What You Need to Know
Beginning **January 1, 2027**, providers will be able to electronically exchange data through industry-standard Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR)-based APIs that enable secure sharing of patient and prior authorization information between providers and health plans. These requirements are intended to:

- Improve access to patient health information.
- Reduce administrative burden.
- Streamline prior authorization processes.
- Support better care coordination.

Prior Authorization Changes Already in Effect
As of **January 1, 2026**, CMS requires health plans to meet, at a minimum, the following prior authorization decision timeframes:

- **Expedited requests:** Within 72 hours.
- **Standard requests:** Within 7 calendar days.

Please note: This change did not affect health plans that already meet these requirements or are required by state regulators to meet stricter timeframes.

Providers remain responsible for:

- Submitting prior authorization requests before services are rendered.
- Including all required clinical documentation and coding.
- Supporting medical necessity requirements.

If you have questions about this communication, please contact your Provider Account Executive or the

Provider Services department at 202-408-2237. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the care of our enrollees.

Sincerely,
AmeriHealth Caritas DC