



August 31, 2026

**For All Ambetter-specific
Announcements Go Here!**

Regulatory & Compliance Updates

2027 MEDICAID CHANGES ALERT



- **Medicaid: Prior Authorization Effective 10/1/2026.**
Buckeye will begin requiring prior authorization for code 36563.
- **Multiple Medicaid Prior Authorization** code changes effective October 1, 2026
- **Multiple Wellcare Prior Authorization** code change details Effective October 1, 2026
[See All Prior Auth Details](#)
- **Notice of Changes to PA Requirements for Home Health Fee-for-Service Claims**
Beginning October 1, 2026, all Ohio Medicaid state plan home health fee-for-service claims will require prior authorization. This applies to all members, including those on waiver programs. [See the details.](#)

HR1 requires states to implement new **Medicaid Work Requirements** starting with Redetermination Renewals on January 1, 2027. Certain Medicaid members ages 19–64 may need to complete at least 80 hours each month of approved activities—such as employment, job training, education or volunteer service—unless they qualify for an exemption. [See what you need to know and an opportunity to share with us what you need.](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Depression Screening and Follow-Up Series

Interpreting Assessment Results & Depression Follow-Up Care: [Review the steps to follow.](#)

New to Availty Essentials or looking to sharpen your skills?

Whether you're just getting started or looking for a refresher, the Availty Learning Center offers flexible training options to help you make the most of

- **Medicare Member Reimbursement Compliance Audits**

Protecting Medicare members from inappropriate out-of-pocket costs is a shared responsibility across the healthcare system. As a reminder, under **42 C.F.R. §422.270(b)**, providers are required to refund any amounts incorrectly collected from Medicare members when claim adjustments result in member overpayments. [What you should do.](#)

- **Ohio Department of Medicaid Laboratory Services Update**

ODM has issued guidance clarifying laboratory claim reviews under OAC 5160-11-11, requiring managed care plans to obtain additional documentation from ordering providers before denying laboratory claims or pursuing recoupments when medical necessity cannot be established. [Be sure to review the requirements and deadlines.](#)

- **Update to the Medicare IP and Post Peer 2 Peer Discussions**

There is an update to the policy notification from our July 1, 2026, posting. The update is an exception for Ohio providers. . [See our July 1 posting of the original message and update.](#)

- **Access & Availability Reminder**

Under Buckeye Health Plan's contract, providers are to maintain sufficient facilities and personnel to provide covered physician services and ensure

Availability Essentials. [Choose from live webinars, on-demand training and demos covering plan-specific topics as well as Availability Essential features.](#)

Comprehensive Maternal Care Webinars

Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) has two remaining regularly scheduled Comprehensive Maternal Care (CMC) webinars that focus on program requirements and updates. [See when the webinars are scheduled.](#)

Provider's Corner

buckeye health plan



August Provider's Corner

Important Tips for Practitioner's Offices

Quick quality tips to support timely access, seasonal wellness, preventive care, and immunizations.

QUALITY



September 17 is World Patient Safety Day

Led by the World Health Organization (WHO), this annual campaign raises awareness of preventable harm in health care and encourages action to improve patient safety. It also highlights the important role Buckeye providers play in helping members receive safe, coordinated and timely care. [Learn how you can support safer care.](#)

PHARMACY



that such services are available, as needed, up to 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. [Review the requirements here.](#)

- **Member Rights & Responsibilities Reminder**

This is an important reminder that Buckeye Health Plan expects providers to be aware of and ensure their patients receive their Member Rights & Responsibilities. [See the requirements here.](#)

Use of Opioids from Multiple Providers: Improving Coordination to Support Safer Opioid Use

The Use of Opioids from Multiple Providers (UOP) measure identifies adult members receiving opioid prescriptions from multiple prescribers and/or pharmacies. Fragmented opioid care can increase the risk of medication interactions, overdose, hospitalization and other adverse outcomes. [Find out why it matters.](#)

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



Technology and Behavioral Health Care

Technology is becoming a bigger part of behavioral health care, helping providers connect with members in ways that are more convenient, flexible, and accessible. [Learn more about how it is helping providers.](#)

REMINDER



Brand Awareness

Need a reminder? We know how many health plans you manage for your patients. It can be hard to keep them all straight. If you need a reminder, see the [2025 to 2026 Brand and Logo Changes link](#) at the top of our Products website page.

Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System Provider Reminder

Ohio's Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS) continues to provide valuable tools to support safe prescribing and care coordination. Providers are encouraged to review the [system and reporting features found here.](#)

HEALTH EQUITY



Using Z-Codes to Advance Whole-Person Care

At Buckeye Health Plan, we are committed to advancing health equity and supporting providers in delivering whole-person care. Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) are important factors influencing health and supports the use of ICD-10-CM Z-Codes (Z55-Z65) to document these social risks. [Find out why.](#)

Provider Communications Sign-Up Form

We communicate essential information to make working with Buckeye easier. In respect for your time, every effort is made to limit the number of communications to just one monthly ***Bulletin*** with all you need to do business with Buckeye. Whether you are an office manager, clinical staff, physician, billing or front desk worker, or serve in another role, we want to share relevant, timely information. Please complete the [Provider Communications Sign Up Form](#) to receive this critical information. If you already receive our communications, but have not completed a Sign-Up Form in the past, please complete the form to allow us to streamline communications, when possible, to targeted audiences.

Visit us at: [Buckeye Provider Home Page](#) | [Provider Communications Archive](#)
Buckeye Health Plan Provider Services | 866.296.8731 | Mon - Fri 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Wellcare by Allwell Provider Services | 855.766.1851 | Mon - Fri 8 a.m.-Noon 1-5 p.m.
Ambetter Provider Services | 877.687.1189 | Mon - Fri 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Buckeye Health Plan - Provider | 4349 Easton Way #120 | Columbus, Ohio 43219