

# Prior Authorization of Non-Emergent Hyperbaric Oxygen (HBO) Therapy

## Background

CMS implemented a prior authorization model from 2015 until 2018 for non-emergent HBO therapy in Illinois, Michigan, and New Jersey that tested whether prior authorization helps reduce expenditures, while maintaining or improving quality of care. CMS believes prior authorization helps confirm that services are provided in compliance with applicable Medicare coverage, coding, and payment rules before services are rendered and claims are paid.

Prior authorization for non-emergent HBO therapy was voluntary; however, if the facility or beneficiary elected not to submit a prior authorization request, the HBO therapy claim was subject to a prepayment medical review.

## Final Evaluation Report

### Final Evaluation Report: 06/19/2019

CMS released the [Evaluation of the Medicare Prior Authorization Model for Non-emergent Hyperbaric Oxygen \(HBO\): Final Report \(PDF\)](#). An evaluation of the model was conducted as required by Section 1115A of the Social Security Act. The findings indicate that prior authorization decreased HBO therapy use and expenditures; however, there was no significant effect on total Medicare expenditures. Additionally, the effects of the model on quality of care and adverse outcomes were neutral.

- [Final Evaluation Report](#)
- [Final Evaluation Report Appendices](#)
- [Findings-At-A-Glance Report](#)

## Downloads & Links

### Downloads:

- [Status Update 10-26-2018 \(PDF\)](#)
- [HBO Prior Authorization Operational Guide 11-18-2016 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Status Update 11-16-2016 \(PDF\)](#)
- [HBO Prior Authorization FAQs 12-28-2015 \(PDF\)](#)

### Related Links:

- [HBO Prior Authorization Model Interim Evaluation Report \(PDF\)](#)
- [Federal Register Notice](#)