

Spravato (esketamine) Outpatient Mental Health Administration & Observation Process for Harvard Pilgrim Health Care

Frequently Asked Questions

Key Points

- As of October 1, 2019, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care (HPHC) began covering Spravato for the treatment of treatment-resistant depression.
- Behavioral health outpatient facilities/providers who wish to provide this service must be certified thru the Spravato REMS process.
- Behavioral health outpatient facilities/providers can bill up to the maximum of 12 units for the outpatient administration of Spravato
- Certified outpatient behavioral health providers will need to obtain authorization for the **Spravato medication** through the member's **MEDICAL benefit**. (All other plans go thru the pharmacy benefit.)
- Use this link to request prior authorization of the Spravato medication for HPHC members: [HPHC Prior Authorization Requests](#)
- The Spravato medication will be delivered directly to the administering provider through Genoa Healthcare pharmacies. Provider can contact Genoa at: genoahealthcare.com/locations
- Eligible members must be enrolled in the Spravato REMS program through Spravato
- Optum Behavioral Health will cover the outpatient administration and observation portion of the Spravato process when administered by a qualified behavioral health provider. This portion of the process will not require prior authorization.
- Behavioral health providers must be contracted for and use the specific Spravato codes as outlined below. This will ensure that the correct codes are on the provider's fee schedule. Contact Network Services if you have questions.
- Notification/prior authorization requirements may vary depending on the member's benefit plan.
- Inpatient to outpatient transition of care could require special handling to ensure there's no gap in treatment.

Overview

Authorization for the Spravato medication should be obtained through the member's medical benefit. Once the authorization is obtained, qualified outpatient mental health providers can proceed with the administration and observation portion of the Spravato protocol without obtaining any additional authorization through Optum Behavioral Health for Harvard Pilgrim Health Care.

Optum Behavioral Health reimburses Spravato services when reported with E/M codes in which time is a factor in determining level of service in accordance with CPT guidelines. Physicians or other qualified health care professionals should report only Spravato services beyond the typical duration of the service on a given date, even if the time spent by the physician or other qualified health care professional is not continuous. Providers should not include the time devoted to performing separately reportable services when determining the amount of prolonged services time. A prolonged service of less than 30 minutes total duration on a given date is not separately reported because the work involved is included in the total work of the evaluation and management codes.

- Report CPT code 99415 (office or outpatient place of service codes) for the first hour of prolonged clinical staff services of direct patient contact with physician supervision. This code should be used only once per date, and prolonged services must exceed 30 minutes in order to report this service.
- Report CPT code 99416 (office or outpatient place of service codes) for each additional 30 minutes beyond the first 60 minutes of prolonged clinical staff services of direct patient contact with physician supervision. Additional services must exceed 15 minutes in order to report this service.
- Report CPT Code 99417 Prolonged office or other outpatient evaluation and management service(s) beyond the minimum required time of the primary procedure which has been selected using total time, requiring total time with or without direct patient contact beyond the usual service, on the date of the primary service, each minutes of total time.
 - List separately in addition to codes 99205, 99215 for office or other outpatient Evaluation and Management services. For example, Providers should report 99417 in conjunction with E/M codes 99205 or 99215.

For Medicare: Report G2212 in place of 99417 in conjunction with E/M codes 99205 or 99215.

Spravato administration currently includes a Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) drug safety program which requires the medication to be administered in a medically supervised healthcare setting.

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Q1. What is REMS (Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy)?

A1. A Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) is a drug safety program that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires for certain medications with serious safety concerns to help ensure the benefits of the medication outweigh its risks.

Q2. What is the goal of the Spravato REMS strategy?

A2. To ensure Spravato is only dispensed to and administered in a medically supervised healthcare setting that provides patient monitoring To ensure that pharmacy and healthcare setting that dispense Spravato are certified To ensure each patient is informed about serious adverse outcomes from dissociation and need for monitoring To enroll all patients in the REMS (registry) to further characterize the risks and support safe use

Q3. How can a provider obtain REMS certification to observe self-administration of Spravato?

A3. Complete and submit the Spravato REMS enrollment form available via Spravato's website: <https://www.spravatorems.com/>

Q4. Where can I view the coverage policies for a specific medication?

A4. To view the coverage policy for a specific medication, go to the Harvard Pilgrim Commercial Clinical Authorization Policies: [Medical Drug Prior Authorization \(CVS Health-Novologix\) - Harvard Pilgrim Health Care - Provider](#)

- For Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, search for "Spravato – Prior Authorization Policy"

Q5. How does the prior authorization process for the Spravato medication work?

A5. Contact Harvard Pilgrim to request authorization for the Spravato medication. Once the medication has been authorized, no further notification/review is required. Submit claims to Optum for the professional services related to administration.

Obtain the prior authorization by going to [Medical Drug Prior Authorization \(CVS Health-Novologix\) - Harvard Pilgrim Health Care – Provider](#) Or by calling: 1-844-387-1435

Q6. Once Spravato has been approved, how do I obtain the medication?

A6. Harvard Pilgrim has arranged with Genoa Healthcare pharmacies to deliver the medication directly to the administering provider. Provider can contact Genoa at genoahealthcare.com/locations

Q7. Is notification/prior authorization required for Spravato to be administered in an outpatient setting?

A7. No. Notification/prior authorization requirements do not apply for services that take place in an outpatient setting, including office or outpatient hospital for Harvard Pilgrim Health Care. Only the medication requires prior authorization under the Harvard Pilgrim Medical benefit.

Q8. Can Optum Behavioral Health create or request a prior authorization for the Spravato medication for a member who is currently in an inpatient behavioral health program for their transition to an outpatient setting?

A8. No. The outpatient provider who will be administering the Spravato medication has to request prior authorization. The outpatient provider should contact the member's medical benefit to obtain authorization for the medication.

If you have any questions, please contact your local Network Management representative or call the Provider Services phone number on the member's health plan ID card. Thank you.