

Frequently Asked Questions

Spravato (esketamine) Outpatient Mental Health Administration and Observation Process for Western Health Advantage

- As of October 1, 2019, Spravato for the treatment of treatment-resistant depression became a covered benefit.
- 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 **Pharmacy benefit**.
- To request prior authorization of the Spravato medication, providers should fax the [Prior Authorization request form](#) to WHA PA Fax Number: 916-568-5280. The Pharmacy department will review the request for approval.
- Clinical requirements for the **Spravato medication** authorization are located [here](#).
- The Spravato medication is dispensed by an In Network REMS certified pharmacy to the provider's office.
- 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.
- Out of Network providers will require authorization if seeking an OON Exception/Single Case Agreement for the administration and observation portion of Spravato.
- 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 at 877-614-0484.
- 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 Pharmacy benefit. Providers obtain this authorization by submitting a [Prior Authorization form](#) to the WHA PA Fax number 916-568-5280. Additional information regarding this process can be found: [Pharmacy Information | Prescription Coverage | Western Health - www.westernhealth.com](#)

Once the medication 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 Western Health Advantage. Out of Network providers will require authorization if seeking an OON Exception/Single Case Agreement for the administration and observation portion of Spravato. Western Health Advantage plans have no OON benefits.

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.

Effective 1/1/21, the follow codes should be utilized:

- 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 minute 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. [Esketamine \(Spravato\) - www.westernhealth.com](https://www.westernhealth.com)

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

A5. Providers need to submit a [Prior Authorization form](#) to the WHA PA Fax number 916-568-5280. Additional information regarding this process can be found: [Pharmacy Information | Prescription Coverage | Western Health - www.westernhealth.com](#) Once the medication has been authorized, no further notification/review is required. Out of Network providers will require authorization if seeking an OON Exception/Single Case Agreement for the administration and observation portion of Spravato. Submit claims to Optum behavioral health for the professional services related to administration.

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

A6. A REMS certified pharmacy dispenses the medication securely to the provider's office.

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 Western Health Advantage. Only the medication requires prior authorization under the Western Health

Advantage benefit.

Out of Network providers will require authorization if seeking an OON Exception/Single Case Agreement for the administration and observation portion of Spravato

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 pharmacy benefit, by submitting a [Prior Authorization Form](#) to the WHA PA Fax number 916-568-5280 to obtain authorization for the medication.

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