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We may provide our decision orally within these time frames, but we will follow up with written or electronic notification within three days of oral notification. You may request that your urgent care claim on appeal be reviewed simultaneously by us and OPM. Please let us know that you would like a simultaneous review of your urgent care claim by OPM either in writing at the time you appeal our initial decision, or by calling us at the phone number listed on the back of your Service Benefit Plan ID card. You may also call OPM's FEHB 1 at 202-606-0727 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern Time (excluding holidays) to ask for the simultaneous review. We will cooperate with OPM so they can quickly review your claim on appeal. In addition, if you did not indicate that your claim was a claim for urgent care, call us at the phone number listed on the back of your ID card. If it is determined that your claim is an urgent care claim, we will expedite our review (if we have not yet responded to your claim).

• Concurrent care claims

A concurrent care claim involves care provided over a period of time or over a number of treatments. We will treat any reduction or termination of our pre-approved course of treatment before the end of the approved period of time or number of treatments as an appealable decision. This does not include reduction or termination due to benefit changes or if your enrollment ends. If we believe a reduction or termination is warranted, we will allow you sufficient time to appeal and obtain a decision from us before the reduction or termination takes effect.

If you request an extension of an ongoing course of treatment at least 24 hours prior to the expiration of the approved time period and this is also an urgent care claim, we will make a decision within 24 hours after we receive the request.

• Emergency inpatient admission

If you have an emergency admission due to a condition that you reasonably believe puts your life in danger or could cause serious damage to bodily function, you, your representative, the physician, or the hospital must phone us within two business days following the day of the emergency admission, even if you have been discharged from the hospital. If you do not phone us within two business days, a $500 penalty may apply – see *Warning* under *Inpatient hospital admissions* earlier in this Section and *If your facility stay needs to be extended* below.

Admissions to residential treatment centers do not qualify as emergencies.

• Maternity care

You do not need precertification of a maternity admission for a routine delivery. However, if your medical condition requires you to stay more than 48 hours after a vaginal delivery or 96 hours after a cesarean section, your physician or the hospital must contact us for precertification of additional days. Further, if your newborn stays after you are discharged, then your physician or the hospital must contact us for precertification of additional days for your newborn.

Note: When a newborn requires definitive treatment during or after the mother's confinement, the newborn is considered a patient in their own right. If the newborn is eligible for coverage, regular medical or surgical benefits apply rather than maternity benefits.

• If your facility stay needs to be extended

If your **hospital** stay – including for maternity care – needs to be extended, you, your representative, your physician, or the hospital must ask us to approve the additional days. If you remain in the hospital beyond the number of days we approved and did not get the additional days precertified, then:

- for the part of the admission that was medically necessary, we will pay inpatient benefits, but
- for the part of the admission that was not medically necessary, we will pay only medical services and supplies otherwise payable on an outpatient basis and we will not pay inpatient benefits.

If your **residential treatment center** stay needs to be extended, you, your representative, your physician or the residential treatment center must ask us to approve the additional days. If you remain in the residential treatment center beyond the number of days approved and did not get the additional days precertified, we will provide benefits for medically necessary covered services, other than room and board and inpatient physician care, at the level we would have paid if they had been provided on an outpatient basis.

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