



## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

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### Division of Workers' Compensation

7551 Metro Center Drive, Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78744-1645

(512) 804-4000 | F: (512) 804-4001 | (800) 252-7031 | [TDI.texas.gov](http://TDI.texas.gov) | [@TexasDWC](https://twitter.com/TexasDWC)

To: Texas Workers' Compensation System Participants

From: Cassie Brown, Commissioner of Workers' Compensation

Date: May 14, 2020

RE: Preauthorization Extensions

On March 22, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott issued [Executive Order No. GA-09](#), directing all licensed health care professionals and facilities to postpone all surgeries and procedures not immediately medically necessary to correct a serious medical condition of, or to preserve the life of, the patient. On April 17, 2020, Governor Abbott issued [Executive Order No. GA-15](#), allowing elective surgeries and procedures under certain circumstances.

To help injured employees receive medical care they need to treat their work-related injuries without an unnecessary administrative delay, the Division of Workers' Compensation encourages Texas workers' compensation insurance carriers and utilization review agents to extend preauthorizations issued before March 22, 2020, without a request from a health care provider, and provide injured employees and health care providers with written notice of updated authorizations. These extensions do not apply to one-time preauthorizations for medical care that has already been completed, new preauthorization requests, or pharmacy preauthorizations.

Workers' compensation certified networks and political subdivision health plans under Labor Code Section 504.053(b)(2) are encouraged to extend injured employee referrals for specialists, therapy, and other medically necessary services to prevent disruptions in the continuity of their medical care.

Please direct questions to [compconnection@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:compconnection@tdi.texas.gov).