

Comorbid Conditions — OHP Rule

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



Q. What is a comorbid condition?

A. It is a medical condition/diagnosis (i.e., illness, disease and/or disability) that co-exists with one or more other current and existing conditions/diagnosis for the same patient. Examples of comorbid conditions are:

- a primary diagnosis of high blood pressure and an additional diagnosis of kidney failure
- a primary diagnosis of morbid obesity and additional diagnoses of high blood pressure, diabetes and congestive heart failure

Q. Why is the comorbid rule important?

A. The comorbid rule must be applied to the Oregon Health Plan's (OHP) Prioritized List of "unfunded" conditions.

Q. What is considered "unfunded"?

A. All diagnoses that are below the OHP funded line (e.g. lumbago, bunion, dermatophytosis) OR treatment that does not pair with the diagnosis OR treatment that pairs with the diagnosis but is below the funded line. For all of these situations, the OHP comorbid rule needs to be considered to see IF it applies to the member's medical condition and changes the funding for an otherwise, unfunded condition. In most situations, it will not change.

Q. Does the comorbid rule apply to OHP excluded services?

A. No.

Q. When I complete the prior authorization form that asks about comorbid conditions, explain when I check "yes" and when I check "no".

A.a. Check "yes" when **ALL** of the following exist:

1. The comorbid condition treatment is not working, **AND**
2. The unfunded condition is causing or exacerbating the comorbid condition, **AND**
3. Treating the unfunded condition will significantly improve the outcome of the comorbid condition.

A.b. Check "no" when **ONE** of the following situations exist:

1. The member's comorbid condition is stable, **OR**
2. The member's comorbid condition is not stable BUT other treatment options exist, **OR**
3. The member's comorbid condition is not impacted by the unfunded condition.

Q. What if I do not know the answer to the question and cannot readily obtain the information?

A. Write "unknown" on the form to indicate if it is unknown, if comorbid conditions apply.

Q. I want to read the entire OHP comorbid rule, where can I find it?

A. Information about funding for comorbid conditions may be found on the Oregon Secretary of State website under OAR 410-141-3820, sections 10 through 11a. Please see secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/viewSingleRule.action?ruleVrsnRsn=275057 for additional information.