

**ADVISORY NO. 388**  
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**TOPIC: REMINDER ABOUT PT/OT PREAUTHORIZATION**

Although the new Emergency Preauthorization Rule was effective when "filed" on November 5, 2005, the only substantive change is the PT/OT, and that change applies only to services rendered on or after December 1, 2005.

For physical therapy services, you may start receiving preauthorization requests at any time. It is appropriate for a therapist to request the preauthorization for the therapy if he/she will be delivering the physical therapy after December 1, 2005. So, as a practical matter, the emergency rule is in effect since the therapists will be requesting approval for any services that might extend beyond the December inception date.

If the physical therapy is delivered prior to December, preauthorization does not apply. For non-preauthorized services performed after December 1, 2005, you may deny payment because of the failure to preauthorization.