



Before the Storm

A 2027 Blizzard Season Prep Timeline



Payer policy resets, plan renewals, and formulary changes hit specialty practices in the same few weeks every January, right as reverification volume peaks. Practices that build a timeline around that compression come out of their Blizzard Season in better shape than the ones scrambling to react to it.

Each year, [it is estimated](#) that around 1 in 5 insured Americans experience some kind of coverage change. For practices operating under a buy-and-bill model, that concentrated volume of change means reverification work piles up fast, phones can ring nonstop, and benefit data shifts faster than staff can track it manually.

1 in 5

AMERICANS EXPERIENCE SOME
KIND OF COVERAGE CHANGE

What drives that volume moves around. Plan switching, subsidy changes, Medicaid redeterminations, and payer system updates all take turns. What doesn't move is the timing: The same administrative load that could otherwise spread across months lands in a matter of weeks. That's what the timeline below is built to get ahead of.



EARLY FALL

CREATE YOUR SCHEDULE BEFORE THE SEASON DOES

The earliest prep work has nothing to do with benefits data yet. It's all about staffing and scheduling:



Build January and February patient schedules early



Adjust staffing for the heaviest verification days



Outline contingency steps for last-minute appointment additions



Schedule new patients or new treatment plans later in the month, where possible, to keep the team's early focus on established patients staying on therapy

This is also the point to standardize the workflow itself. Repeatable checklists and scripts for staff handling reverifications reduce confusion, prevent missed steps, and make it easier for new team members to step in when the volume hits.





FALL SETUP

GET AHEAD OF THE REVERIFICATION ITSELF

Manual reverification takes time and invites errors, and that cost multiplies as volume spikes. This is where automation earns its place in the timeline, well ahead of the new year. Running reverifications against the upcoming appointment schedule, instead of waiting until check-in, moves the work out of the crunch entirely.

CareTria Provider Connect's BI Batching process is built around that shift. Practices submit their January and February patient schedules securely by mid-December. From there, the platform queues investigations against those appointment dates automatically, while CareTria's reverification team monitors for exceptions that need a closer look.



MID-DECEMBER

THE CUTOFF THAT SETS UP THE SEASON



Mid-December is the hinge point of the whole timeline. Practices that upload schedules by this point give CareTria Provider Connect room to run investigations in batches tied to appointment dates, typically completing them at least three days ahead of scheduled visits. Miss the window, and that same volume of work gets pushed into January instead, competing directly with the patient load it was meant to get ahead of.

The most recent season shows what that head start is worth. Practices using CareTria Provider Connect completed more than 232,000 benefit reverifications in 2026, with 99.46% returning in under 24 hours and an average turnaround of 1.6 hours. For sponsored products, the average dropped to just 58 seconds, with more than 86% of that verification work automated.



JANUARY EXECUTE AGAINST THE PLAN

Once Blizzard Season officially starts, the work shifts from setup to monitoring:



Run daily eligibility checks for scheduled patients



Prioritize Medicare and other government plans early in the month



Focus attention on January and February appointments before anything further out



Add new or urgent patients individually, without disrupting the batches already running

Staff visibility matters as much as the automation behind it. Knowing at a glance which patients are verified and which still need attention keeps a growing list from turning into a bottleneck, and it gives teams a way to acknowledge progress as the season moves rather than treating every week as a fresh crisis.

Allergy Partners applied the same batch-and-monitor approach during its first Blizzard Season on CareTria Provider Connect and got through its full patient population within the same month, a first for the program after years of falling behind under a manual process. *Note: Read the full success story: [“How Allergy Partners Scaled Its Biologic Program with CareTria Provider Connect.”](#)*

BEYOND JANUARY

Blizzard Season eventually ends, but the practices that build this timeline into a repeatable rhythm each year carry that operational discipline into the rest of the year. That consistency is the difference between surviving Blizzard Season and overcoming it year after year.



Ready for Blizzard Season?

The full checklist behind this timeline, along with the complete BI Batching walkthrough, is available in CareTria's ["Don't Get Caught in the Blizzard"](#) guide and checklist. For practices ready to put it into action, CareTria Provider Connect accounts are free to set up.

SCHEDULE YOUR DEMO TODAY

Learn how your practice can Beat the Blizzard.

