

ONLINE PRIOR AUTHORIZATION FORMS FOR ORAL DRUGS

There are certain drugs that require prior authorization (PA). This ensures use of these drugs is consistent with the product labeling as well as policy and treatment recommendations from peer-reviewed medical literature and specialty societies. Here are some common reasons why we may assign a PA:

- To help with a step-wise approach to treatment.
- To document failure of first-line therapies.
- For drugs with very specific limited labeled indications.
- For drugs with the potential for misuse or overuse.
- For drugs that should be limited to a maximum quantity based on manufacturer information.

While reviewing drugs for PA is a necessary part of responsible health plan administration, we recognize the administrative burden the process can place on the physician. That's why we make every attempt to minimize the number of drugs that require PA. We periodically review drugs that require PA to make sure it continues to be useful.

One way we do this is by reviewing approval rates of PA requests. We will remove the PA requirement from any drug with a high rate of approval. We also implement point-of-sale step edits which, if met, override the PA requirement and allow the sale to continue. Point-of-sale step edits have an added benefit — there is no paperwork for you to do. As a result of these efforts, we have reduced our list of oral drugs requiring PA to 12.

To further reduce the administrative burden of the PA process, we now provide access to PA forms for each of these 12 oral drugs on our Web site at www.BlueChoiceSC.com. Go to our Providers' page, click on Forms, then select Oral Drug Prior Authorization (PA) Forms. Click on the name of the drug and you will download its PA Request Form.

You can then print and complete the form and fax it to Caremark, an independent company that administers our pharmacy benefits, at the number on the form. Caremark is generally able to provide a response in one day. You can also call Caremark's Prior Authorization Center at 1-800-294-5979 and begin the PA process by phone.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact your Health Network Services Representative at 1-800-327-3183.