pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

# MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

| ISSUE DATE | EFFECTIVE DATE | NUMBER |
|---|---|---|
| November 2, 2009 | November 16, 2009 | *See Below |

| SUBJECT | BY |
|---|---|
| Antivirals, Topical Updated Handbook Pages<br>Pharmacy Services<br>Fall 2009 Preferred Drug List (PDL) Update | Michael Nardone, Deputy Secretary<br>Office of Medical Assistance Programs |

## PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to issue new Prior Authorization of Pharmaceutical Services Handbook pages for Antivirals, Topical that include instructions on how to request prior authorization of prescriptions for drugs included in the Fall 2009 PDL update that require prior authorization, including the type of medical information needed to evaluate requests for medical necessity.

## SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to all licensed pharmacies and prescribers enrolled in the Medical Assistance (MA) Program and providing services in the fee-for-service (FFS) delivery system, including pharmacy services to residents of long term care facilities.

## BACKGROUND:

The Department of Public Welfare's (Department) Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee meets semi-annually to review published peer-reviewed clinical literature and make recommendations relating to new drugs in therapeutic classes already included in the PDL, changes in the status of drugs on the PDL from preferred to non-preferred and non-preferred to preferred, new quantity limits, and new classes of drugs to be added to or deleted from the PDL. The P&T Committee may also recommend new guidelines or modifications to existing guidelines to evaluate requests for prior authorization of prescriptions for medical necessity

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| *01-09-57 | 09-09-58 | 27-09-49 |
| 02-09-48 | 11-09-48 | 30-09-48 |
| 03-09-48 | 14-09-48 | 31-09-59 |
| 08-09-57 | 24-09-54 | 32-09-48 |

**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:**

The appropriate toll free number for your provider type

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs Web site at www.dpw.state.pa.us/PartnersProviders

**DISCUSSION:**

During the August 19, 2009 P&T Committee meeting, the P&T Committee recommended guidelines to determine medical necessity for Antivirals, Topical which were subject to public review and comment, and subsequently approved for implementation by the Department.

**PROCEDURE:**

The procedures for prescribers to request prior authorization of non-preferred drugs, preferred drugs that require prior authorization, and drugs not subject to the PDL that require prior authorization and for pharmacies to dispense an emergency supply of medication when necessary and without prior authorization are located In SECTION I of the Prior Authorization of Pharmaceutical Services Handbook. The Department will take into account the elements specified in the clinical review guidelines (which are included in the provider handbook pages in the SECTION II chapters related to specific therapeutic classes of drugs) in reviewing the prior authorization request to determine medical necessity.

The requirements for prior authorization and clinical review guidelines to determine medical necessity of Antivirals, Topical and updated handbook chapters are included in the attached updated provider handbook pages.

As set forth in 55 Pa. Code § 1101.67(a), the procedures described in the handbook pages must be followed to ensure appropriate and timely processing of prior authorization requests for drugs that require prior authorization.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Prior Authorization of Pharmaceutical Services Handbook - Updated pages

SECTION II

Antivirals, Topical