



ISSUE DATE November 2, 2011	EFFECTIVE DATE November 1, 2011	NUMBER *See below
SUBJECT Prior Authorization of Early Refills Exemptions and Automated Approvals - Pharmacy Services		BY  Vincent D. Gordon, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs

IMPORTANT REMINDER: If you submit HIPAA compliant electronic healthcare claim transactions to the department, you need to be prepared for the ANSI X12 v5010 and NCPDP vD.0 upgrades in order to prevent the rejection of your claims. The CMS mandated compliance date for all covered entities to use the new standards is January 1, 2012. For additional information, visit the DPW website at:
<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/provider/doingbusinesswithdpw/softwareandservicevendors/hipaa5010d.0upgradeinformation/index.htm>

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform providers of the following:

1. Prescriptions and refills for oral contraceptives and diabetic supplies are not subject to the requirement for prior authorization of early refills.
2. Refills of prescriptions for insulin and anti-hemophilia medications that meet the definition of an early refill will be automatically approved.

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.

*01-11-53	09-11-53	27-11-51	
02-11-47	11-11-48	30-11-47	
03-11-48	14-11-48	31-11-52	
08-11-55	24-11-54	32-11-47	33-11-15

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

BACKGROUND:

On July 18, 2008, the Department of Public Welfare (Department) issued MA Bulletin Number 02-08-04 et.al., Subject: Prior Authorization of Early Refills of Prescriptions, announcing the requirement for prior authorization of early refills of all prescriptions, effective August 4, 2008. An early refill was defined as a request for a refill when more than 25 percent of an earlier-dispensed medication would remain when taken in compliance with the directions and quantity prescribed. On September 6, 2011, the Department issued MA Bulletin Number 01-11-43, et al, Subject Early Refills – Pharmacy Services, modifying the definition of an early refill as a request for a refill when more than 15 percent of an earlier-dispensed medication would remain when taken in compliance with the directions and quantity prescribed.

DISCUSSION:

The requirement for prior authorization of an early refill does not apply to prescriptions for oral contraceptives and diabetic supplies.

Refills of prescriptions for insulin and anti-hemophilia medications that meet the definition of an early refill will be automatically approved at the pharmacy on-line point-of-sale. Prescribing providers do not need to submit a request for prior authorization of an early refill of a prescription for insulin or an anti-hemophilia medication.

PROCEDURE:

The procedures for prescribers to request prior authorization of early refills of all other prescriptions 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 chapter related to Early Refills) in reviewing the prior authorization request to determine medical necessity.

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.