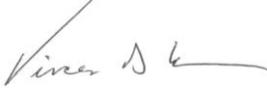




ISSUE DATE October 17, 2011	EFFECTIVE DATE October 17, 2011	NUMBER *See Below
SUBJECT Prior Authorization of Xyrem – Pharmacy Services		BY  Vincent D. Gordon, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs

PURPOSE:

The purposes of this bulletin are to:

1. Inform providers that the Department of Public Welfare (Department) will require prior authorization of prescriptions for Xyrem.
2. Issue handbook pages that include the type of information needed to evaluate requests for prior authorization of prescriptions for Xyrem 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’s Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board meets semi-annually to review provider prescribing and dispensing practices for efficacy, safety, and quality and to recommend interventions for prescribers and pharmacists through the Department’s Prospective Drug Use Review (ProDUR) and Retrospective Drug Use Review (RetroDUR) programs.

*01-11-49	09-11-49	27-11-46
02-11-43	11-11-43	30-11-43
03-11-44	14-11-44	31-11-48
08-11-50	24-11-50	32-11-43
		33-11-11

<p>COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:</p> <p>The appropriate toll free number for your provider type</p> <p>Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs Web site at http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/provider/healthcaremedicalassistance/index.htm</p>
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DISCUSSION:

During the May 5, 2011 DUR Board meeting, the DUR Board recommended that the Department require prior authorization of Xyrem in response to health and safety concerns due to potential adverse events, high cost, and potential for diversion. The DUR Board recommended guidelines to determine medical necessity of Xyrem 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 Xyrem 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 Xyrem) 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.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Prior Authorization of Pharmaceutical Services Handbook - Updated pages](#)

SECTION II
Xyrem