

**DOH** STATE OF NEW YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Corning Tower

The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza

Albany, New York 12237

January 19, 2007

Dear Prescriber:

Due to public health concerns and the potential for overuse and misutilization, NYS Medicaid requires that prescribers obtain prior authorization before prescribing Zyvox (linezolid). This requirement reinforces that prescribers should carefully consider alternatives before initiating Zyvox therapy in the outpatient setting.

Over time, claims for Zyvox have increased. Overuse of this agent will accelerate the development of resistance and limit its overall effectiveness. You are receiving this letter as you have been identified as a Zyvox prescriber. Please be sure to review this information before prescribing this agent for your patients.

Zyvox is an antibiotic indicated for treatment of the following diagnoses:

- Vancomycin resistant infections including concurrent bacteremia,
- nosocomial pneumonia,
- community acquired pneumonia, or
- skin/skin structure infections complicated and uncomplicated.

Zyvox should be used only to treat or prevent infections that are proven or strongly suspected to be caused by susceptible bacteria. Cultures should be done and susceptibility proven prior to prescribing this agent. Zyvox should be reserved for use against Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci (VRE).

Enclosed you will find the clinical criteria, updated prescriber instructions and prior authorization worksheet needed to obtain prior authorization of Zyvox. If you have further questions, please contact the prior authorization Clinical Call Center at 1-877-309-9493.

Sincerely,



Linda J. Jones, R.N., Director  
Bureau of Pharmacy Policy and Operations  
Office of Medicaid Management

Enclosures