

June 21, 2012

Dear Prescriber:

On April 19, 2012, the New York State Medicaid Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee recommended changes to the Medicaid pharmacy prior authorization programs. The Commissioner of Health has reviewed the recommendations of the committee and has approved changes to the Preferred Drug Program (PDP) within the Fee-For-Service Pharmacy Program. Effective July 12, 2012, prior authorization (PA) requirements will change for some drugs in the following PDP classes:

- Antipsychotics – Second Generation*
- Central Nervous System (CNS) Stimulants
- Direct Renin Inhibitors
- HMG-CoA Reductase Inhibitors (Statins)
- Inhaled Anticholinergic/COPD Agents
- Inhaled Corticosteroid/Beta₂-Adrenergic Agents (Long-Acting) Combinations
- Inhaled Short Acting Beta₂ Adrenergic Agents
- Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) – Prescription
- Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs)
- Serotonin-Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitors (SNRIs)

**Commissioner of Health approval of this class is pending further review. The final determination will be communicated at a future time.*

The PDP has also expanded to include an additional drug class. Non-preferred drugs in the following drug class will require PA:

- Hepatitis C Agents - Ribavirins

Please note that PA requirements are no longer dependent on the date a prescription is written. New prescriptions and refills on existing prescriptions require PA even if the prescription was written before the date the drug was determined to require PA. The Preferred Drug List (PDL) and additional information, such as updated PA forms and clinical criteria for the PDP and Clinical Drug Review Program (CDRP) are available at the following websites:

<http://www.nyhealth.gov> or <http://newyork.fhsc.com> or <http://www.eMedNY.org>

To obtain a PA, please call the prior authorization clinical call center at 1-877-309-9493. The clinical call center is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week with pharmacy technicians and pharmacists who will work with you, or your agent, to quickly obtain PA.

If you have any questions, wish to obtain additional information regarding the PDP or would like to receive the PDL, please contact the clinical call center at 1-877-309-9493. Thank you for your continued support of our efforts to maintain a quality pharmacy program for Medicaid fee-for service beneficiaries.

Sincerely,



Mary A. Carroll
Director, Bureau of Program Implementation and Administration
Division of Program Development and Management
Office of Health Insurance Programs