

**NEW YORK**  
state department of  
**HEALTH**

Nirav R. Shah, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner

Sue Kelly  
Executive Deputy Commissioner  
August 13, 2012

Dear Prescriber:

On June 15, 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 August 30, 2012, prior authorization (PA) requirements will change for some drugs in the following PDP classes:

Alpha Reductase Inhibitors (for BPH)

- Anabolic Steroids – Topical
- Antihistamines - Ophthalmic
- Beta Blockers
- Beta Blockers + Diuretics
- Cholesterol Absorption Inhibitors
- Dipeptidyl Peptidase-4 (DPP-4) Inhibitors
- Fluoroquinolones – Oral
- Opioids – Long-Acting
- Opioids – Short-Acting
- Pancreatic Enzymes
- Phosphate Binders/Regulators
- Prostaglandin Agonists - Ophthalmic
- Steroids, Topical – Medium Potency
- Steroids, Topical – Very High Potency
- Sulfasalazine Derivatives

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

- Antibiotics - Ophthalmic
- Antibiotic/Steroid Combinations - Ophthalmic

Please note that PA requirements are not 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