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Medicaid Pharmacy Prior Authorization Programs Update

On November 18, 2021, the New York State Medicaid Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board recommended changes to the Medicaid pharmacy prior authorization programs. The Commissioner of Health has reviewed the recommendations of the Board and has approved changes to the Preferred Drug Program (PDP) within the fee-for-service (FFS) pharmacy program.

Effective **March 22, 2022**, the criteria for Central Nervous System (CNS) Stimulants will change:

- Central Nervous System (CNS) Stimulants will have the following additional criteria:
  - Prior authorization (PA) will be required when a CNS stimulant is prescribed for a member currently utilizing a benzodiazepine or an opioid for greater than or equal to 30 days
  - Prior authorization will be required when an initial benzodiazepine is prescribed for > 14 days' supply for a member currently using a CNS stimulant
  - Prior authorization will be required when an initial opioid is prescribed for a member currently utilizing a CNS stimulant
    - PA will not be required when an opioid is prescribed for acute pain (less than or equal to a 7-day supply) for a member utilizing a CNS stimulant
    - PA will not be required when Medication Assisted Therapy is prescribed for Opioid Use Disorder for a member currently utilizing a CNS stimulant

For more detailed information on the DUR Board, please refer to:
http://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/program/dur/index.htm

Below is a link to the most up-to-date information on the Medicaid FFS Pharmacy Prior Authorization (PA) Programs. This document contains a full listing of drugs subject to the Medicaid FFS Pharmacy Programs:
https://newyork.fhsc.com/downloads/providers/NYRx_PDP_PDL.pdf

To obtain a PA, please contact the 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 a PA.

Medicaid enrolled prescribers can also initiate PA requests using a web-based application. PAXpress® is a web-based pharmacy PA request/response application accessible through a new button "PAXpress" located on eMedNY.org under the MEIPASS button.

Additional information is available at the following websites:
https://www.health.ny.gov or http://newyork.fhsc.com or http://www.eMedNY.org