

## Medicaid Pharmacy Prior Authorization Programs Update

**Effective March 20, 2014**, the fee-for-service pharmacy program will implement the following parameters. These changes are the result of recommendations made by the Drug Utilization Review Board (DURB) at the December 12, 2013 DURB meeting:

### Long Acting Opioids

- Point of service (POS) edit for any long acting opioid prescription for opioid naïve patients. Absence of evidence of recent opioid use in patient's claim or medical history will require prescriber involvement.
  - Exemption for diagnosis of cancer or sickle cell disease.
- POS edit for any additional long acting opioid prescription for patients currently on long acting opioid therapy. Override will require prescriber involvement.
  - Exemption for diagnosis of cancer or sickle cell disease.

### Antiretroviral Therapy

- Confirmation of diagnosis for FDA or compendia supported uses. Absence of covered diagnosis will require prescriber involvement.

### Benzodiazepine Therapy

- Confirmation of diagnosis for FDA or compendia supported uses.
- POS edit for initiation of concurrent opioid and benzodiazepine prescriptions.
- POS edit for additional oral benzodiazepine prescriptions for patients currently on benzodiazepine therapy.
- POS edit for a benzodiazepine prescription for patients currently being treated with oral buprenorphine.
- Step Therapy for Generalized Anxiety Disorder or Social Anxiety Disorder:
  - Require trial with a Selective-Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor (SSRI) or a Serotonin-Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitor (SNRI) prior to initial benzodiazepine prescription.
- Step Therapy for Skeletal Muscle Spasms:
  - Require trial with a skeletal muscle relaxant prior to a benzodiazepine.
- For Panic Disorder:
  - POS edit requiring concurrent therapy with an antidepressant (SSRI, SNRI, or tricyclic antidepressants (TCA)).
- Duration limit for insomnia or panic disorder of 30 consecutive days.

Note: Override for the above recommendations will require prescriber involvement.

For more detailed information on the DURB, please refer:

[http://www.health.ny.gov/health\\_care/medicaid/program/dur/index.htm](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](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 the eMedNY website at: <http://www.eMedNY.org>. PAXpress® can also be accessed through Magellan Medicaid Administration at: <http://newyork.fhsc.com>.