

ISSUE DATE May 30, 2014	EFFECTIVE DATE June 2, 2014	NUMBER *See below
SUBJECT Prior Authorization of Analgesics, Narcotic Long Acting - Pharmacy Services		BY  Vincent D. Gordon, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to:

1. Inform providers about new requirements for prior authorization of all Analgesics, Narcotic Long Acting.
2. Issue handbook pages that include instructions on how to request prior authorization of prescriptions for Analgesics, Narcotic Long Acting, including the type of medical information needed to evaluate requests for medical necessity.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to all licensed pharmacies and prescribers enrolled in the Medical Assistance (MA) Program and providing services in the fee-for-service (FFS) delivery system, including pharmacy services to residents of long term care facilities.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Public Welfare's (Department) Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board meets semi-annually to review provider prescribing and dispensing practices for efficacy, safety, and quality and to recommend interventions for prescribers and pharmacists through the Department's Prospective Drug Use Review (ProDUR) and Retrospective Drug Use Review (RetroDUR) programs.

*01-14-24	09-14-19	27-14-17	33-14-18
02-14-16	11-14-16	30-14-16	
03-14-19	14-14-16	31-14-22	
08-14-20	24-14-16	32-14-16	

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The appropriate toll free number for your provider type

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs Web site at
<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/provider/healthcaremedicalassistance/index.htm>

DISCUSSION:

During the March 25, 2014 meeting, the DUR Board recommended that the Department require prior authorization of all Analgesics, Narcotic Long Acting and modifications to the guidelines to determine medical necessity of Analgesics, Narcotic Long Acting. The recommended utilization management strategies are in response to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) declaration that the United States is in the midst of an epidemic of prescription drug overdose deaths, with deaths associated with prescription pain medications of particular concern. The strategies are intended to support appropriate use of prescription opioid medications, and to mitigate the potential for adverse consequences resulting from inappropriate use or overutilization of these medications. These utilization management strategies and the guidelines to determine medical necessity of Analgesics, Narcotic Long Acting, as recommended by the DUR Board, were subject to public review and comment, and subsequently approved for implementation by the Department. The requirements for prior authorization and clinical review guidelines to determine the medical necessity of Analgesics, Narcotic Long Acting are included in the attached updated provider handbook pages.

PROCEDURE:

The procedures for prescribers to request prior authorization of Analgesics, Narcotic Long Acting are located in SECTION I of the Prior Authorization of Pharmaceutical Services Handbook. The Department will take into account the elements specified in the clinical review guidelines (which are included in the provider handbook pages in the SECTION II chapters related to Analgesics, Narcotic Long Acting) when reviewing the prior authorization request to determine medical necessity.

As set forth in 55 Pa. Code § 1101.67(a), the procedures described in the handbook pages must be followed to ensure appropriate and timely processing of prior authorization requests for drugs that require prior authorization.

ATTACHMENTS:

Prior Authorization of Pharmaceutical Services Handbook - Updated pages

SECTION II
Analgesics, Narcotic Long Acting