

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

ISSUE DATE May 22, 2009	EFFECTIVE DATE June 1, 2009	NUMBER *See Below
SUBJECT Medical Necessity Guidelines for Cymbalta for Treatment of Fibromyalgia	BY  Michael Nardone, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to issue updated Prior Authorization of Pharmaceutical Services Handbook pages related to Antidepressants, Other to include the type of medical information needed to evaluate requests for Cymbalta when prescribed for the treatment of fibromyalgia.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to all licensed pharmacies and prescribers that are enrolled in the Medical Assistance (MA) Program and provide 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 assess the prescribing and dispensing practices of MA providers relative to efficacy, safety, and quality standards. Interventions, which can be implemented through the Department's Prospective Drug Use Review (ProDUR) and/or Retrospective Drug Use Review (RetroDUR) programs, may be recommended.

*01-09-05	09-09-06	27-09-03
02-09-02	11-09-02	30-09-02
03-09-02	14-09-02	31-09-07
08-09-06	24-09-05	32-09-02

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 www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap

DISCUSSION:

During the December 2008 meeting, the DUR Board recommended that existing guidelines for prior authorization of Antidepressants, Other be modified to include treatment of fibromyalgia as an approved indication for Cymbalta. The guidelines were recommended by the DUR Board, subject to public review and comment, and subsequently approved for implementation by the Department.

PROCEDURE:

The procedures to request prior authorization of Cymbalta when prescribed for the treatment of fibromyalgia and to dispense an emergency supply of Cymbalta, when necessary and without prior authorization, are found in SECTION I of the Prior Authorization of Pharmaceutical Services Handbook. The Department will consider elements specified in the clinical review guidelines (which are included in the attached provider handbook pages in SECTION II chapters related to the specific drugs) 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
Antidepressants, Other