

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE HANDBOOK
PRIOR AUTHORIZATION OF PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES

I. Requirements for Prior Authorization of Cephalosporins and Related Agents (Formerly Cephalosporins)

A. Prescriptions That Require Prior Authorization

Prescriptions for non-preferred Cephalosporins and Related Agents must be prior authorized. See Preferred Drug List (PDL) for the list of preferred Cephalosporins and Related Agents at:

www.providersynergies.com/services/documents/PAM_PDL.pdf

EXEMPTION: Prior authorization is not required for cefdinir capsules for children under 18 years of age

B. Review of Documentation for Medical Necessity

In evaluating a request for prior authorization of a prescription for a non-preferred Cephalosporin and Related Agent, the determination of whether the requested prescription is medically necessary will take into account the following:

1. Whether the recipient has a history of therapeutic failure, intolerance, or contraindication of the preferred Cephalosporins and Related Agents.

AND

2. Whether culture and sensitivity test results document that only non-preferred Cephalosporins and Related Agents will be effective.

OR

3. The recipient does not meet the clinical review guidelines listed above, but, in the professional judgment of the physician reviewer, the services are medically necessary to meet the medical needs of the recipient.

C. Clinical Review Process

Prior authorization personnel will review the request for prior authorization and apply the clinical guidelines in Section B. above, to assess the medical necessity of the request for a prescription for a non-preferred Cephalosporin and Related Agent. If any of the guidelines in Section B. is met, the reviewer will prior authorize the prescription. If none of the

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guidelines are met, the prior authorization request will be referred to a physician reviewer for a medical necessity determination. Such a request for prior authorization will be approved when, in the professional judgment of the physician reviewer, the services are medically necessary to meet the medical needs of the recipient.