



ISSUE DATE May 31, 2013	EFFECTIVE DATE June 3, 2013	NUMBER *See below
SUBJECT Prior Authorization of Androgenic Agents – Pharmacy Services		BY  Vincent D. Gordon, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to:

1. Inform providers that the Department of Public Welfare (Department) will require prior authorization of Androgenic Agents designated as preferred on the Department’s Preferred Drug list (PDL).
2. Issue updated handbook pages that include instructions on how to request prior authorization of prescriptions for Androgenic Agents, 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’s 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.

*01-13-22	09-13-24	27-13-22	33-13-24
02-13-20	11-13-20	30-13-20	
03-13-20	14-13-21	31-13-25	
08-13-22	24-13-22	32-13-20	

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 20, 2013 meeting, the DUR Board recommended that the Department require prior authorization of Androgenic Agents designated as preferred on the Department's PDL and add guidelines to determine medical necessity of both preferred and non-preferred Androgenic Agents for health and safety reasons, and to ensure compliance with Department regulations related to compensability of erectile dysfunction drugs. Androgenic Agents are controlled substances that can be misused or abused for sexual dysfunction and performance enhancement purposes. Erectile dysfunction drugs are non-compensable in the Medical Assistance (MA) program unless used for a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved indication other than for the treatment of sexual or erectile dysfunction. In addition, abuse of androgenic medications carries with it cardiac, metabolic and hematologic adverse effects. The guidelines to determine medical necessity of Androgenic Agents, 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 Androgenic Agents are included in the attached updated provider handbook pages.

PROCEDURE:

The procedures for prescribers to request prior authorization of Androgenic Agents 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 chapter related to Androgenic Agents) in 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
Androgenic Agents