

ISSUE DATE December 29, 2014	EFFECTIVE DATE December 9, 2014	NUMBER *See below
SUBJECT Prior Authorization of Xolair - Pharmacy Services		BY  Vincent D. Gordon, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to issue handbook pages that include instructions on how to request prior authorization of Xolair (omalizumab), 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.

DISCUSSION:

During the September 10, 2014 meeting, the DUR Board recommended that the Department update the guidelines to determine medical necessity of Xolair (omalizumab) to address the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of the use of Xolair (omalizumab) in the treatment of chronic idiopathic urticaria in adults and adolescents (12 years of age and above) who remain symptomatic despite H1 antihistamine treatment.

*01-14-45	09-14-38	27-14-36	33-14-37
02-14-35	11-14-35	30-14-35	
03-14-38	14-14-35	31-14-42	
08-14-39	24-14-36	32-14-35	

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>

The guidelines to determine medical necessity of Xolair (omalizumab) in the treatment of chronic idiopathic urticaria, 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 Xolair (omalizumab) are included in the attached updated provider handbook pages.

PROCEDURE:

The procedures for prescribers to request prior authorization of Xolair (omalizumab) 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 Xolair [omalizumab]) 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
Xolair (omalizumab)