

	MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA * DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE		
	ISSUE DATE: September 16, 2005	EFFECTIVE DATE: September 19, 2005	NUMBER: 99-05-17
SUBJECT: Prior Authorization of Drugs That Exceed Established Quantity Limits - Phase 2 Enforcement		BY:  David S. Feinberg Deputy Secretary for Medical Assistance Programs Office of Medical Assistance Programs	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to inform providers that the Department of Public Welfare (Department) is phasing in enforcement of the requirement for prior authorization of prescriptions for certain drugs when the prescribed quantity exceeds the limits established by the Department through hard edits in PROMISe™ and to provide a list of drugs included in Phase 2.

SCOPE:

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

BACKGROUND:

On April 5, 2005, the Department issued MA Bulletin Number 99-05-06, "Prior Authorization of Drugs That Exceed Established Quantity Limits." This MA Bulletin announced that, effective April 25, 2005, the Department would require prior authorization of prescriptions for certain drugs when the prescribed quantity exceeds the limits established by the Department. The MA Bulletin included updated provider handbook pages with an Attachment listing the medications and quantity limits.

DISCUSSION:

In order to ensure a smooth transition of this requirement, the Department is phasing in enforcement of the provision of MA Bulletin Number 99-05-06 through hard edits in PROMISe™. The Department announced Phase 1 enforcement in MA Bulletin Number 99-05-14, "Prior Authorization of Drugs That Exceed Established Quantity Limits - Phase 1 Enforcement" issued August 10, 2005.

The Attachment to this MA Bulletin lists the drugs and quantity limits in Phase 2 that will be subject to hard edits and system rejection of a claim that does not include a prior authorization number when the prescription exceeds quantity limits, beginning September 19, 2005.

All provisions of MA Bulletin Numbers 99-05-06 and 99-05-14 remain in effect. Prior authorization is required when the prescribed quantity exceeds the limits established by the Department.

The Department will continue to notify prescribers and pharmacies of each subsequent phase in of enforcement through hard edits in PROMISe™.

ATTACHMENTS:

Phase II Quantity Limits - Enforced September 19, 2005

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 website at www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap.