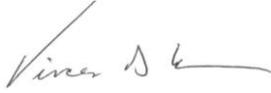




ISSUE DATE July 13, 2012	EFFECTIVE DATE September 10, 2012	NUMBER *See below
SUBJECT Prior Authorization of Opiate Dependence Treatments – Pharmacy Services		BY  Vincent D. Gordon, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to issue updated handbook pages that include instructions on how to request prior authorization of prescriptions for Opiate Dependence Treatments, 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 21, 2011 meeting, the DUR Board recommended modifications to the requirements for prior authorization, the quantity limits, and the guidelines to determine medical necessity of Opiate Dependence Treatments with the intent of improving the quality of care. Board recommendations included requiring prior authorization of all prescriptions for

*01-12-36	08-12-36	14-12-31	30-12-31	33-12-35
02-12-31	09-12-37	24-12-32	31-12-37	
03-12-31	11-12-30	27-12-33	32-12-31	

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>

Opiate Dependence Treatments, including the initial prescription; a quantity limit of 16mg per day; and greater specificity in the medical necessity guidelines regarding documentation of diagnosis, evaluation, and level of care. The guidelines to determine medical necessity of Opiate Dependence Treatments 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 Opiate Dependence Treatments are included in the attached updated provider handbook pages.

PROCEDURE:

The procedures for prescribers to request prior authorization of Opiate Dependence Treatments 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 Opiate Dependence Treatments) 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
Opiate Dependence Treatments