

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE HANDBOOK
PRIOR AUTHORIZATION OF PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES

I. Requirements for Prior Authorization of Lipotropic, Statins

A. Prescriptions That Require Prior Authorization

Prescriptions for a Lipotropic, Statin that meets any of the following conditions must be prior authorized:

1. A prescription for a non-preferred Lipotropic, Statin. See Preferred Drug List (PDL) for the list of preferred Lipotropic, Statins at: www.providersynergies.com/services/documents/PAM_PDL.pdf
2. A prescription for a preferred Lipotropic, Statin with a prescribed quantity that exceeds the quantity limit. See Quantity Limits for the list of drugs with quantity limits at: <http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/provider/doingbusinesswithdpw/pharmacyservices/quantitylimitslist/index.htm>
3. A prescription for a Lipotropic, Statin when there is a record of a recent paid claim for another Lipotropic, Statin in PROMISe, the Department's Claims Adjudication System, (therapeutic duplication)

B. Review of Documentation for Medical Necessity

In evaluating a request for prior authorization of a prescription for a Lipotropic, Statin the determination of whether the requested prescription is medically necessary will take into account the following:

1. For a non-preferred Lipotropic, Statin, whether the recipient has a history of therapeutic failure, contraindication or intolerance of the preferred Lipotropic, Statins.
2. For therapeutic duplication, whether:
 - a. The recipient is being titrated to, or tapered from, a drug in the same class

OR

- b. Supporting peer reviewed literature or national treatment guidelines corroborate concomitant use of the medications being requested

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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.

In addition, if a prescription for either a preferred or non-preferred Lipotropic, Statin is in a quantity that exceeds the quantity limit, the determination of whether the prescription is medically necessary will also take into account the guidelines set forth in the Quantity Limits Chapter.

C. Automated Prior Authorization Approvals

Prior authorization of a prescription for a Lipotropic, Statin will be automatically approved when a non-preferred Lipotropic, Statin is prescribed in a quantity that does not exceed the quantity limit, and the PROMISe Point-of-Sale On-Line Claims Adjudication System verifies a record of a paid claim within 90 days prior to the date of service that documents that the guideline to determine medical necessity listed in Section B. 1. has been met

D. 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 Lipotropic, Statin. If the applicable guideline in Section B is met, the reviewer will prior authorize the prescription. If the applicable guideline is not 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.