



ISSUE DATE May 3, 2013	EFFECTIVE DATE May 6, 2013	NUMBER *See below	
SUBJECT Prior Authorization of Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension (PAH) Agents, Oral and Inhaled – 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 PAH Agents, Oral and Inhaled, 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 March 20, 2013 meeting, the DUR Board recommended that the Department update the guidelines to determine medical necessity of Revatio (sildenafil) in response to the recommendation of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for pulmonary hypertension in children 1-17 years of age, and consistent with the statements and recommendation of the

*01-13-23	09-13-25	27-13-23	33-13-25
02-13-21	11-13-21	30-13-21	
03-13-21	14-13-22	31-13-26	
08-13-23	24-13-23	32-13-21	

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The appropriate toll free number for your provider type

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<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/provider/healthcaremedicalassistance/index.htm>

Pediatric Pulmonary Hypertension Network of North America (PPHNet), the European Medicines Agency (EMA), and the Scientific Leadership Council of the Pulmonary Hypertension Association (PHA). The guidelines to determine medical necessity of Revatio (sildenafil), 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 Revatio (sildenafil) are included in the attached updated provider handbook pages.

PROCEDURE:

The procedures for prescribers to request prior authorization of PAH 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 PAH 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
PAH Agents