



ISSUE DATE May 3, 2013	EFFECTIVE DATE May 6, 2013	NUMBER *See below
SUBJECT Prior Authorization of Lyrica (pregabalin), Neuropathic Pain Agents and Oral Anticonvulsants – Pharmacy Services		BY  Vincent D. Gordon, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to issue:

1. New handbook pages that include instructions on how to request prior authorization of prescriptions for Lyrica (pregabalin), including the type of medical information needed to evaluate requests for medical necessity;
2. Updated handbook pages for Neuropathic Pain Agents and Oral Anticonvulsants, 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.

*01-13-25	09-13-27	27-13-25	33-13-27
02-13-23	11-13-23	30-13-23	
03-13-23	14-13-24	31-13-28	
08-13-25	24-13-25	32-13-23	

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>

DISCUSSION:

During the March 20, 2013 meeting, the DUR Board recommended that the Department update the guidelines to determine medical necessity of Lyrica (pregabalin) for the treatment of neuropathic pain associated with spinal cord injury, as approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The guidelines to determine medical necessity of Lyrica (pregabalin) when prescribed for the treatment of neuropathic pain associated with spinal cord injury, 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 Lyrica (pregabalin) for this new indication are included in the attached updated provider handbook pages.

PROCEDURE:

The procedures for prescribers to request prior authorization of Lyrica (pregabalin) 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 Lyrica (pregabalin)) in reviewing the prior authorization request to determine medical necessity. Lyrica (pregabalin) is currently included in both the Neuropathic Pain Agents and Oral Anticonvulsants classes of drugs and the handbook pages for both Neuropathic Pain Agents and Oral Anticonvulsants were updated to include a cross reference to the new chapter of Lyrica (pregabalin).

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

[Lyrica](#)
[Neuropathic Pain Agents](#)
[Oral Anticonvulsants](#)