



ISSUE DATE July 13, 2013	EFFECTIVE DATE July 24, 2013	NUMBER *See below
SUBJECT Prior Authorization of Irritable Bowel Syndrome Agents - Pharmacy Services		BY  Vincent D. Gordon, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to:

1. Inform providers that the Department of Public Welfare is adding a new class of drugs, Irritable Bowel Syndrome Agents, to the Preferred Drug List (PDL);
2. Inform providers that the Department will require prior authorization of all Irritable Bowel Syndrome Agents, including those designated as preferred on the PDL; and
3. Issue handbook pages that include instructions on how to request prior authorization of prescriptions for Irritable Bowel Syndrome Agents, 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's Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee meets semi-annually to review published peer-reviewed clinical literature and make recommendations relating to new drugs in therapeutic classes already included in the Preferred Drug List (PDL), changes in the status of drugs on the PDL from preferred to non-preferred and non-preferred

*01-13-35	09-13-35	27-13-33	33-13-35
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03-13-31	14-13-32	31-13-39	
08-13-33	24-13-33	32-13-31	

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>

to preferred, new quantity limits, and new classes of drugs to be added to or deleted from the PDL. The P&T Committee also recommends new guidelines or modifications to existing guidelines to evaluate requests for prior authorization of prescriptions for medical necessity.

DISCUSSION:

During the May 16, 2013 P&T Committee meeting, the P&T Committee recommended that the Department include Irritable Bowel Syndrome Agents on the PDL and require prior authorization of all Irritable Bowel Syndrome Agents, both preferred and non-preferred, to ensure appropriate patient selection for treatment and drug utilization. The recommendations of the P&T Committee, including the guidelines to determine medical necessity, 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 Irritable Bowel Syndrome Agents are included in the attached updated provider handbook pages.

PROCEDURE:

The procedures for prescribers to request prior authorization of Irritable Bowel Syndrome 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 Irritable Bowel Syndrome Agents) when 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
Irritable Bowel Syndrome Agents