

|  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <b>ISSUE DATE</b><br>November 22, 2013   | <b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b><br>December 2, 2013 | <b>NUMBER</b><br>*See below  |  |
| <b>SUBJECT</b><br>Prior Authorization of Analgesics, Narcotic Long Acting, Analgesics, Narcotic Short Acting, and Cough and Cold Medications - Pharmacy Services |   | <b>BY</b><br><br>Vincent D. Gordon, Deputy Secretary<br>Office of Medical Assistance Programs |  |

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this bulletin is to issue handbook pages that include instructions on how to request prior authorization of prescriptions for Analgesics, Narcotic Long Acting; Analgesics, Narcotic Short Acting; and Cough and Cold Medications, 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 18, 2013 meeting, the DUR Board recommended that the Department require prior authorization of all Analgesics, Narcotic Long Acting; all Analgesics, Narcotic Short Acting; and all Cough Medications that contain an opioid when prescribed for a child under 21 years of age. The intent is to promote and support appropriate use and

|           |          |          |          |
|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| *01-13-55 | 09-13-53 | 27-13-52 | 33-13-52 |
| 02-13-47  | 11-13-47 | 30-13-47 |          |
| 03-13-47  | 14-13-48 | 31-13-60 |          |
| 08-13-52  | 24-13-49 | 32-13-47 |          |

**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>

effective oversight and monitoring of all analgesic narcotics prescribed for children under 21 years of age, and to mitigate the potential for adverse consequences resulting from inappropriate or over-utilization of these medications. The guidelines to determine medical necessity of Analgesics, Narcotic Long Acting; Analgesics, Narcotic Short Acting; and Cough Medications that contain an opioid, as recommended by the DUR Board, were subject to public review and comment, and were subsequently approved for implementation by the Department. The requirements for prior authorization and clinical review guidelines to determine the medical necessity of Analgesics, Narcotic Long Acting; Analgesics, Narcotic Short Acting; and Cough and Cold Medications are included in the attached updated provider handbook pages.

### **PROCEDURE:**

The procedures for prescribers to request prior authorization of Analgesics, Narcotic Long Acting; Analgesics; Narcotic Short Acting; and Cough and Cold Medications 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 chapters related to Analgesics, Narcotic Long Acting; Analgesics, Narcotic Short Acting; and Cough and Cold Medications 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

[Analgesics, Narcotic Long Acting](#)

[Analgesics, Narcotic Short Acting](#)

[Cough and Cold Medications](#)