

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE HANDBOOK  
PRIOR AUTHORIZATION OF PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES

**I. Requirements for Prior Authorization of H.P. Acthar Gel**

A. Prescriptions That Require Prior Authorization

All prescriptions for H.P. Acthar Gel must be prior authorized.

B. Clinical Review Guidelines and Review of Documentation for Medical Necessity

In evaluating a request for prior authorization of a prescription for H.P. Acthar Gel, the determination of whether the requested prescription is medically necessary will take into account the following:

1. The recipient has a diagnosis of infantile spasm

**OR**

2. For all other diagnoses, whether:

a. The diagnosis and the prescribed dosage is:

i. Indicated in the package insert

**OR**

ii. Listed in nationally recognized compendia for the determination of medically-accepted indications for off-label uses

**OR**

iii. Supported by peer reviewed medical literature provided by the prescriber

**AND**

b. The recipient has a documented history of failure, contraindication, or intolerance of IV methylprednisolone and oral corticosteroids

**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.

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C. 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 H.P. Acthar Gel. If the guidelines in Section B are met, the reviewer will prior authorize the prescription. If the guidelines are 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

References

1. H.P. Acthar Gel prescribing information, November 2012
2. C.Y. Go, M.T. Mackay, S.K. Weiss, et al. Evidence-based guideline update: Medical treatment of infantile spasms Report of the Guideline Development Subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology and the Practice Committee of the Child Neurology Society. *Neurology* 2012;78;1974