

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE HANDBOOK
PRIOR AUTHORIZATION OF PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES

I. Requirements for Prior Authorization of Hypoglycemics, Metformins

A. Prescriptions That Require Prior Authorization

Prescriptions for Hypoglycemics, Metformins that meet any of the following conditions must be prior authorized:

1. A prescription for a non-preferred Hypoglycemic, Metformin. See Preferred Drug List (PDL) for the list of preferred Hypoglycemics, Metformins at:
www.providersynergies.com/services/documents/PAM_PDL.pdf
2. A prescription for a preferred Hypoglycemic, Metformin with a prescribed quantity that exceeds the quantity limit. See Quantity Limits for the list of drugs with quantity limits at:
<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/provider/doingbusinesswithdpw/pharmacyservices/quantitylimitslist/index.htm>

B. Review of Documentation for Medical Necessity

In evaluating a request for prior authorization of a prescription for a non-preferred Hypoglycemic, Metformin, the determination of whether the requested prescription is medically necessary will take into account whether the recipient:

1. Has a documented history of therapeutic failure, intolerance, or contraindication of the preferred Hypoglycemics, Metformins

OR

2. 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
3. In addition, if a prescription for either a preferred or non-preferred Hypoglycemic, Metformin is in a quantity that exceeds the quantity limit, the determination of whether the prescription is medically necessary will also take into account the guidelines set forth in the Quantity Limits Chapter.

C. Clinical Review Process

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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 a Hypoglycemic, Metformin. 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.