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| ISSUE DATE August 8, 2019 | EFFECTIVE DATE January 1, 2020 | NUMBER *See below |
| SUBJECT Prior Authorization of Penicillins – Pharmacy Services | BY  Sally A. Kozak, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs | |

IMPORTANT REMINDER: All providers must revalidate the Medical Assistance (MA) enrollment of each service location every 5 years. Providers should log into PROMISe to check the revalidation dates of each service location and submit revalidation applications at least 60 days prior to the revalidation dates. Enrollment (revalidation) applications may be found at:
http://www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/promise/enrollmentinformation/S_001994.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to:

1. Inform providers of the addition of the Penicillins class of drugs to the Preferred Drug List (PDL).
2. Issue new handbook pages that include the requirements for prior authorization and the type of information needed to evaluate the medical necessity of prescriptions for Penicillins submitted for prior authorization.

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 delivery system. Providers rendering services in the MA managed care delivery system should address any questions related to Penicillins to the appropriate managed care organization.

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| *01-19-23 | 09-19-21 | 27-19-19 | 33-19-21 |
| 02-19-18 | 11-19-17 | 30-19-17 | |
| 03-19-17 | 14-19-17 | 31-19-23 | |
| 08-19-26 | 24-19-19 | 32-19-17 | |

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| <p>COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:</p> <p>The appropriate toll-free number for your provider type</p> <p>Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs Web site at http://www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/healthcaremedicalassistance/index.htm</p> |
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BACKGROUND:

The Department of Human Services' (Department) Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee reviews published peer-reviewed clinical literature and recommends the following:

- Preferred or non-preferred status for new drugs in therapeutic classes already included in the PDL;
- Changes in the status of drugs on the PDL from preferred to non-preferred and non-preferred to preferred;
- New quantity limits;
- Classes of drugs to be added to or deleted from the PDL; and
- New guidelines or revisions to existing guidelines to evaluate the medical necessity of prescriptions submitted for prior authorization.

DISCUSSION:

During the May 15, 2019, meeting, the P&T Committee recommended that the Department add the Penicillins class of drugs to the PDL and proposed guidelines to determine medical necessity of Penicillins. The requirement for prior authorization and guidelines to determine medical necessity of Penicillins, as recommended by the P&T Committee, were subject to public review and comment and subsequently approved for implementation by the Department.

PROCEDURE:

The procedures for prescribers to request prior authorization of Penicillins 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 Penicillins) 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

RESOURCES:

Prior Authorization of Pharmaceutical Services Handbook – SECTION I
Pharmacy Prior Authorization General Requirements

<http://www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/pharmacieservices/pharmacypriorauthorizationgeneralrequirements/index.htm>

Prior Authorization of Pharmaceutical Services Handbook – SECTION II
Pharmacy Prior Authorization Guidelines

<http://www.dhs.pa.gov/provider/pharmacyservices/drugsrequiringclinicalpriorauthorization/index.htm>

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE HANDBOOK
PRIOR AUTHORIZATION OF PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES

I. Requirements for Prior Authorization of Penicillins

A. Prescriptions That Require Prior Authorization

All prescriptions for non-preferred Penicillins must be prior authorized.

See the Preferred Drug List (PDL) for the list of preferred Penicillins at:
<https://papdl.com/preferred-drug-list>.

B. Review of Documentation for Medical Necessity

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

1. **One** of the following:

- a. Has a history of therapeutic failure, intolerance, or contraindication of the preferred Penicillins;
- b. Has culture and sensitivity test results documenting that only non-preferred Penicillins will be effective.

NOTE: If the beneficiary does not meet the clinical review guidelines above but, in the professional judgement of the physician reviewer, the services are medically necessary to meet the medical needs of the beneficiary, the request for prior authorization will be approved.

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 a prescription for a Penicillin. 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 beneficiary.