


<b>ISSUE DATE</b>  November 9, 2022	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>  January 9, 2023	<b>NUMBER</b>  *See below
<b>SUBJECT</b>  Prior Authorization of Angiotensin Modulator Combinations – Pharmacy Services		<b>BY</b>   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: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/PROMISe-Enrollment.aspx>.

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this bulletin is to issue updated handbook pages that include the requirements for prior authorization and the type of information needed to evaluate the medical necessity of prescriptions for Angiotensin Modulator Combinations submitted for prior authorization.

**SCOPE:**

This bulletin applies to all licensed pharmacies and prescribers enrolled in the Medical Assistance (MA) Program. The guidelines to determine the medical necessity of Angiotensin Modulator Combinations will be utilized in the fee-for-service delivery system and by the MA managed care organizations (MCO) in Physical Health HealthChoices and Community HealthChoices. Providers rendering services in the MA managed care delivery system should address any questions related to the prior authorization of Angiotensin Modulator Combinations to the appropriate MCO.

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:**

*01-22-45	09-22-44	27-22-32	33-22-42
02-22-29	11-22-29	30-22-35	
03-22-28	14-22-29	31-22-48	
08-22-53	24-22-37	32-22-29	

**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 website at <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/Health%20Care%20for%20Providers/Contact-Information-for-Providers.aspx>.

The Department of Human Services (Department) is updating the medical necessity guidelines for Angiotensin Modulator Combinations to clarify the prescriptions that require prior authorization for therapeutic duplication. There are no other changes to the medical necessity guidelines.

The revisions to the guidelines to determine medical necessity of prescriptions for Angiotensin Modulator Combinations 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 Angiotensin Modulator Combinations 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 Angiotensin Modulator Combinations) 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 and products 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

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Pharmacy-Services/Pages/Pharmacy-Prior-Authorization-General-Requirements.aspx>

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

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Pharmacy-Services/Pages/Clinical-Guidelines.aspx>

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE HANDBOOK  
PRIOR AUTHORIZATION OF PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES

**I. Requirements for Prior Authorization of Angiotensin Modulator Combinations**

**A. Prescriptions That Require Prior Authorization**

Prescriptions for Angiotensin Modulator Combinations that meet any of the following conditions must be prior authorized:

1. A non-preferred Angiotensin Modulator Combination. See the Preferred Drug List (PDL) for the list of preferred Angiotensin Modulator Combinations at: <https://papdl.com/preferred-drug-list>.
2. An Angiotensin Modulator Combination with a prescribed quantity that exceeds the quantity limit. The list of drugs that are subject to quantity limits, with accompanying quantity limits, is available at: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Pharmacy-Services/Pages/Quantity-Limits-and-Daily-Dose-Limits.aspx>.
3. An agent that contains an angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor when there is a record of a recent paid clam for another agent that contains an ACE inhibitor or an angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB) in the Point-of-Sale Online Claims Adjudication System (therapeutic duplication).
4. An agent that contains an ARB when there is a record of a recent paid clam for another agent that contains an ARB or an ACE inhibitor in the Point-of-Sale Online Claims Adjudication System (therapeutic duplication).
5. An agent that contains a calcium channel blocker when there is a record of a recent paid clam for another agent that contains a calcium channel blocker in the Point-of-Sale Online Claims Adjudication System (therapeutic duplication).

**B. Review of Documentation for Medical Necessity**

In evaluating a request for prior authorization of a prescription for an Angiotensin Modulator Combination, the determination of whether the requested prescription is medically necessary will take into account whether the beneficiary:

1. For a non-preferred Angiotensin Modulator Combination, has a history of therapeutic failure of or a contraindication or an intolerance to the preferred Angiotensin Modulator Combinations; **AND**
2. For therapeutic duplication, **one** of the following:
  - a. For an ACE inhibitor, is being transitioned to another ACE inhibitor or ARB with the intent of discontinuing one of the medications,
  - b. For an ARB, is being transitioned to another ARB or ACE inhibitor with the intent of discontinuing one of the medications,

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- c. For a calcium channel blocker, is being transitioned to another calcium channel blocker with the intent of discontinuing one of the medications,
- d. Has a medical reason for concomitant use of the requested medications that is supported by peer-reviewed medical literature or national treatment guidelines;

**AND**

- 3. If a prescription for an Angiotensin Modulator Combination is for 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.

NOTE: If the beneficiary 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 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 an Angiotensin Modulator Combination. 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.