


ISSUE DATE October 28, 2019	EFFECTIVE DATE January 1, 2020	NUMBER *See below
SUBJECT Prior Authorization of Ophthalmics, Antibiotics (Formerly Ophthalmic Antibiotics) – 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 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 Ophthalmics, Antibiotics 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 Ophthalmics, Antibiotics to the appropriate managed care organization.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

The Department of Human Services (Department) is changing the title of the Ophthalmic Antibiotics class of drugs to Ophthalmics, Antibiotics and is updating the medical necessity guidelines to clarify that a review for medical necessity of a non-preferred

*01-19-71	09-19-67	27-19-65	33-19-67
02-19-65	11-19-64	30-19-63	
03-19-64	14-19-63	31-19-70	
08-19-73	24-19-65	32-19-63	

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.dhs.pa.gov/provider/healthcaremedicalassistance/index.htm>

Ophthalmic, Antibiotic will take into account the beneficiary's diagnosis and to remove the guideline specific to fourth- and fifth-generation ophthalmic fluoroquinolones. There are no other changes to the medical necessity guidelines.

PROCEDURE:

The procedures for prescribers to request prior authorization of Ophthalmics, Antibiotics 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 Ophthalmics, Antibiotics) 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/pharmacyservices/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 Ophthalmics, Antibiotics

A. Prescriptions That Require Prior Authorization

Prescriptions for a non-preferred Ophthalmic, Antibiotic must be prior authorized.

See the Preferred Drug List (PDL) for the list of preferred Ophthalmics, Antibiotics 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 Ophthalmic, Antibiotic, the determination of whether the requested prescription is medically necessary will take into account the whether the beneficiary:

1. Has a history of therapeutic failure, contraindication, or intolerance to the preferred Ophthalmics, Antibiotics approved or medically accepted for the beneficiary's diagnosis.

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 a non-preferred Ophthalmic, Antibiotic. 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.