Extended Duration Prior Authorizations for Maintenance Medications

March 22, 2023

What Pharmacy Providers and Prescribers Need to Know

On March 24, 2023, as part of Phase III of Reinstatement, Medi-Cal Rx will initiate a series of transition policy lifts for beneficiaries 22 years of age and older. Refer to the alert titled *90-Day Countdown – Phase III: Retirement of the Transition Policy for Beneficiaries 22 Years of Age and Older* for additional information.

To reduce administrative burden while ensuring continued medication safety for beneficiaries, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has enabled extended duration/multi-year prior authorizations (PAs) for up to five years for certain maintenance medications used for chronic conditions. Qualified prescriptions have been automatically extended.

The list of medications eligible for an extended duration/multi-year PA is referred to as the *Medi-Cal Rx Extended Duration Prior Authorization List*. DHCS will notify pharmacy providers and prescribers of the availability of this list once it is published.

This extended duration/multi-year PA is provided for certain maintenance medications with a PA requirement. Additional restrictions such as quantity limits, age limits, diagnosis restrictions, and other clinical edits may apply.

- **For a maintenance medication requiring a PA, for which a claim was paid during the transition period based upon historical claim data or an existing PA, the renewal prescription will not require a new PA. This only applies to beneficiaries 22 years of age and older at this time.**

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The table below lists examples of maintenance drug classes with drugs that may require a PA:

Maintenance Drug Classes *		
Anti-depressants	Anti-convulsants	Anti-hypertensives
Anti-lipemic agents	Anti-Parkinson's agents	Anti-psychotic agents
Antiviral agents	Asthma inhalers	Cardiovascular agents
Coronary vasodilators	Diabetes medications	Diuretics
Glaucoma agents	Hormone agents	Multiple Sclerosis agents
Oncology agents	Rheumatoid Arthritis agents	

* Not all maintenance drug classes are listed.

What Pharmacy Providers and Prescribers Need to Do

For a maintenance medication with an approved PA or paid claims history **within the 15-month lookback period**, and eligible for extended duration PAs, **no action is required**. These prescriptions will be automatically extended per the PA policy.

New PA requests for maintenance medications will automatically be considered for extended duration as part of the PA review process.

Resources

- For more information about Medi-Cal Rx Reinstatement, visit the Medi-Cal Rx Education & Outreach page on the Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal and select **Medi-Cal Rx Reinstatement**.
- *90-Day Countdown – Phase III: Retirement of the Transition Policy for Beneficiaries 22 Years of Age and Older*
- *How to Prepare for Retirement of the Transition Policy*
- *Medical Supplies: How to Prepare for Retirement of the Transition Policy*
- *30-Day Countdown – Reinstatement of Prior Authorization Requirements for 46 Drug Classes Including Medical Supplies*
- *Medi-Cal Rx: Transitioning Medi-Cal Pharmacy Services from Managed Care to Fee-for-Service Frequently Asked Questions*: Questions 33, 35, and 55.
- *Medi-Cal Rx Approved NDC List*

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Contact Information

You can call the Medi-Cal Rx Customer Service Center (CSC) at 1-800-977-2273, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year.

For other questions, email Medi-Cal Rx Education & Outreach at MediCalRxEducationOutreach@magellanhealth.com.

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