

ISSUE DATE November 7, 2023	EFFECTIVE DATE January 8, 2024	NUMBER *See below
SUBJECT Prior Authorization of Androgenic Agents – 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: <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 Androgenic Agents 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 Androgenic Agents will be utilized in the fee-for-service delivery system and by the MA managed care organizations (MCOs) 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 Androgenic Agents to the appropriate MCO.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

The Department of Human Services (Department) is updating the medical necessity

*01-23-28	09-23-27	27-23-18	33-23-25
02-23-16	11-23-16	30-23-19	
03-23-14	14-23-15	31-23-29	
08-23-31	24-23-24	32-23-14	

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>.

guidelines for Androgenic Agents to reflect the current title of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health Standards of Care for the Health of Transgender and Gender Diverse People. There are no other changes to the medical necessity guidelines.

The revisions to the guidelines to determine medical necessity of prescriptions for Androgenic Agents 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 Androgenic Agents 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 Androgenic Agents) 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 Androgenic Agents

A. Prescriptions That Require Prior Authorization

All prescriptions for Androgenic Agents must be prior authorized.

B. Review of Documentation for Medical Necessity

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

1. Is prescribed the Androgenic Agent for an indication that is included in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved package labeling or a medically accepted indication; **AND**
2. Is prescribed a dose and duration of therapy that are consistent with FDA-approved package labeling, nationally recognized compendia, or peer-reviewed medical literature; **AND**
3. Does not have a contraindication to the prescribed medication; **AND**
4. For a diagnosis of hypogonadism, has clinical and laboratory findings (such as testosterone, luteinizing hormone [LH], follicle-stimulating hormone [FSH]) supporting the diagnosis; **AND**
5. For gender dysphoria, **both** of the following:
 - a. Is prescribed the Androgenic Agent by or in consultation with an endocrinologist or medical provider with experience and/or training in transgender medicine
 - b. Is prescribed the Androgenic Agent in a manner consistent with the current World Professional Association for Transgender Health Standards of Care for the Health of Transgender and Gender Diverse People;

AND

6. For a non-preferred Androgenic Agent, has history of therapeutic failure of or a contraindication or an intolerance to the preferred Androgenic Agents approved or medically accepted for the beneficiary's diagnosis or indication. See the Preferred Drug List (PDL) for the list of preferred Androgenic Agents at: <https://papdl.com/preferred-drug-list>; **AND**
7. For therapeutic duplication, **one** of the following:
 - a. Is being titrated to or tapered from a drug in the same class

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE HANDBOOK
PRIOR AUTHORIZATION OF PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES

- b. Has a medical reason for concomitant use of the requested medications that is supported by peer-reviewed literature or national treatment guidelines;

AND

- 8. If a prescription for an Androgenic Agent 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. 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>.

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 Androgenic Agent. 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.

D. References:

- 1. Snyder, P.J. Use of androgens and other hormones to enhance athletic performance, UpToDate. Accessed March 7, 2013.
- 2. Coleman E, Radix AE, Bouman WP, et al. Standards of Care for the Health of Transgender and Gender Diverse People, Version 8. Int J Transgend Health. 2022 Sep 6;23(Suppl 1):S1-S259. doi: 10.1080/26895269.2022.2100644. PMID: 36238954; PMCID: PMC9553112.