Semi-annual Medicaid Preferred Drug List Update Coming July 25, 2019

Information posted July 19, 2019

Texas Medicaid will publish the semi-annual update of the Medicaid preferred drug list on July 25, 2019. The update is based on changes recommended at the January 2019 and April 2019 Texas Drug Utilization Review Board meetings. Drug list decisions from both meetings are available at www.txvendordrug.com/resources/drug-utilization-review-board/dur-board-documents.

Drugs on the Texas Medicaid formulary are designated as preferred, non-preferred, or have neither designation.

On the preferred drug list, drugs are identified as preferred or non-preferred:

- Drugs not on the preferred list, or drugs identified on the list as "preferred", are available without prior authorization.
- Drugs identified as "non-preferred" will require prior authorization.

Some drugs on the formulary and preferred drug list are subject to one or both types of prior authorization, clinical or non-preferred.

Preferred Drug Reminders

- Prescribing providers must use the Medicaid formulary and preferred drug list. Providers who prescribe medications for clients enrolled in the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) must use the CHIP formulary. CHIP does not have a preferred drug list.
- Not all drugs on the Texas Medicaid formulary are listed on the preferred drug list.
- Prescribing providers must obtain prior authorization for these drugs. Pharmacy staff may not request prior authorizations.

The Preferred Drug List Criteria Guide outlines the criteria used to evaluate the non-preferred prior authorization requests. It will be updated by July 25 to reflect the recent changes.

Obtaining Medicaid Outpatient Drug Prior Authorization

The method for obtaining prior authorization for outpatient drugs depends on the Medicaid program in which the client is enrolled:

- For clients enrolled in a Medicaid managed care organization (MCO):
  Prescribing providers or their representatives should contact the prior authorization call center unique to the client’s health plan. Each plan’s prior authorization call center phone number is listed on
the Prescriber MCO Assistance Chart. The chart can be downloaded from txvendordrug.com/resources/downloads.

- For clients in traditional Medicaid:
  Prescribing providers or their representatives should call the Texas Prior Authorization Call Center at 1-877-PA-TEXAS (1-877-728-3927).

  **Note:** Xenical and enzyme replacement therapy products require clinical prior authorization but are reviewed internally by Vendor Drug Program staff pharmacists.

### Online Drug Reference Information

The following Medicaid and CHIP drug information is available online:

- The Medicaid and CHIP formulary and Medicaid preferred drug list information is available online. Formulary information is also available for all state programs administered by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC).

- Epocrates is a free subscription drug information service prescribing providers can download to computers or handheld devices. In addition to listing a drug’s preferred status, Epocrates includes drug monographs, dosing information, and warnings. All prescribing providers are eligible to register for Epocrates online at epocrates.com.

- Prescribers may use their e-prescribing software to view the Medicaid and CHIP formularies or to find preferred drugs and alternatives to non-preferred drugs.

### 72-Hour Emergency Supply

The prescribing provider is responsible for obtaining drug prior authorization. Pharmacy staff will alert the prescribing provider to obtain prior authorization if authorization has not been obtained when the prescription is presented to the pharmacy. If medication is needed without delay, pharmacy staff can provide a 72-hour emergency supply of the medication while the prescribing provider obtains the authorization. Dispensing an emergency supply provides the client with an immediate dose of the medication, but requires a return trip to the pharmacy for the full prescription or alternate therapy.

### Quick Refresher on Pharmacy Prior Authorization

For a quick refresher on the Medicaid pharmacy benefit, including prior authorization, go to the HHSC quick course A Prescriber’s Guide to Texas Medicaid Outpatient Pharmacy Prior Authorization.