



Pennsylvania Medical Assistance removes prior authorization requirement for preferred hepatitis C virus (HCV) direct-acting antivirals.

DATE:	July 27, 2023
TO:	Health Alert Network
FROM:	Debra Bogen, M.D., FAAP, Acting Secretary of Health
SUBJECT:	Pennsylvania Medical Assistance removes prior authorization requirement for preferred hepatitis C virus (HCV) direct-acting antivirals.
DISTRIBUTION:	Statewide
LOCATION:	Statewide
STREET ADDRESS:	N/A
COUNTY:	N/A
MUNICIPALITY:	N/A
ZIP CODE:	N/A

This transmission is a “Health Advisory” provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

HOSPITALS: PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, PEDIATRIC, NURSING AND LABORATORY STAFF IN YOUR HOSPITAL; **EMS COUNCILS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; **FQHCs:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE **LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP; **LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES:** PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, INFECTION CONTROL, AND NURSING STAFF IN YOUR FACILITY

Summary

- Effective July 10, 2023, Pennsylvania Medical Assistance no longer requires prior authorization for preferred hepatitis C agents on the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services Statewide Preferred Drug List (PDL).
- This change applies to Medical Assistance beneficiaries receiving benefits in both fee-for-service and managed care delivery systems.
- Non-preferred hepatitis C agents will continue to require prior authorization.
- A hepatitis C agent with a prescribed quantity that exceeds the quantity limit will continue to require a prior authorization. Managed care organizations may set their own quantity limits.
- There is no change in dispensing requirements. Managed care organizations may continue to include the hepatitis C agents in their specialty pharmacy programs.

Background

During the April 26, 2023, meeting, the Pennsylvania Medical Assistance Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board recommended the following revisions to the guidelines to determine medical necessity of prescriptions for hepatitis C agents:

- Removed the prior authorization requirement for preferred hepatitis C virus (HCV) direct-

acting antivirals.

- Revised the guideline related to cirrhosis assessment to include FIB-4 calculation as an example of noninvasive cirrhosis testing.
- Removed the guideline that the beneficiary has documentation of detectable quantitative HCV RNA at baseline.
- Removed the guideline that the beneficiary has documented results of HIV screening (HIV Ag/Ab).

The revisions to the guidelines to determine medical necessity of prescriptions for hepatitis C agents submitted for prior authorization, as recommended by the DUR Board, were subject to public review and comment and subsequently approved for implementation by the Department of Human Services.

Recommendations

If you have any questions, please call DOH at 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258) or your [local health department](#).

Additional Information

- AASLD and IDSA HCV Guidance: Recommendations for Testing, Managing, and Treating Hepatitis C: <https://www.hcvguidelines.org/>
- Pennsylvania Medical Assistance Preferred Drug List: <https://papdl.com/preferred-drug-list> -
- Pennsylvania Medical Assistance Fee-for-Service Quantity Limits/Daily Dose Limits: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Pharmacy-Services/Documents/Quantity%20Limits/QL%20List-Current%20as%20of%2006-01-23.pdf>
- Pennsylvania Medical Assistance Prior Authorization of Hepatitis C Agents: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Pharmacy-Services/Documents/Clinical%20Guidelines%20SW%20PDL/Hepatitis%20C%20Agents%20HB%2020230710.pdf>
- Philadelphia Department of Public Health - Prior Authorization (PA) Removal for Medicaid Preferred Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Medications in Pennsylvania [hip.phila.gov/document/3780/PDPH-HAN_Update_3_HepCMedications_07.17.2023.pdf](http://phila.gov/document/3780/PDPH-HAN_Update_3_HepCMedications_07.17.2023.pdf)

Individuals interested in receiving PA-HANs are encouraged to register at [HAN Notification Registration \(mir3.com\)](#)

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

This information is current as of July 27, 2023 but may be modified in the future. We will continue to post updated information regarding the most common questions about this subject.