

Prior Authorization

July 2019

Not all benefit plans include the Prior Authorization program. Check your plan materials to see if this information applies to you.

What Is Prior Authorization?

It's a quality and safety program that promotes the proper use of certain medications. If your doctor prescribes a medication that is included in our Prior Authorization program, you must get prior approval before your plan will cover your medication.

We base the Prior Authorization program on U.S. Food and Drug Administration and manufacturer guidelines, medical literature, safety, accepted medical practice, appropriate use and benefit design.

Which Medications Are Included?

This list includes both specialty and non-specialty drugs that require prior authorization under your **pharmacy benefit**. You will also find information on where your doctor should send requests for prior authorization.

Some drugs require **Medical Necessity Prior Authorization (MNPA)**. Before your plan will cover these drugs, you must try one or more covered alternatives first.

If your health plan requires prior authorization for specialty drugs under the **medical benefit**, you can find more information on the Medical Prior Authorization drug list online at your health plan's website.

What Are the Possible Outcomes of a Prior Authorization Request?

- If you meet the requirements, your drug will be approved, and we will cover it. Your drug may be approved for up to one year or more. You will be sent a letter letting you know that your drug has been approved.
- If you do not meet the requirements, your prior authorization will be denied. Also, if your doctor does

not send in the requested information within a certain period of time, your prior authorization will be denied. If your request is denied, both you and your doctor will be sent a letter explaining the denial. The letter will include information about how you can appeal the decision.

What Happens at the Pharmacy?

The pharmacist enters your prescription information into the computer system. If your medication needs prior authorization and you already have it, the pharmacist will fill your prescription. If you do not have prior authorization, you have three choices:

- You or your pharmacist can call your doctor and get a prescription for a different medication that does not need prior authorization.
- You can pay full price for your medication.
- You or your pharmacist can ask your doctor to get prior authorization for you.

If you do not meet the requirements for prior authorization, you can still choose another option. You and your doctor make the final decision about the medication that is right for you.

If you submit your prescription to your plan's mail-order pharmacy and do not get the required prior authorization, the pharmacy will not fill your prescription. You will receive notification by mail.

What Happens at a Specialty Pharmacy?

Usually, your doctor will call or fax a prescription directly to the specialty pharmacy. If your prescription requires prior authorization, the specialty pharmacy will tell your doctor how to request this.

Your benefit document defines actual benefits available and may exclude coverage for certain drugs listed here. Check your benefit information to verify coverage or view your personal benefit information on our website. This list may contain trademarks or registered trademarks of pharmaceutical manufacturers that are not affiliated with your health plan. This list may change or expand from time to time without prior notice. When we list brand-name drugs, programs may also apply to any available generic equivalents.