

DON'T LET PRIOR AUTHORIZATION FORMS RUIN YOUR DAY

Tips For Reducing Prior Authorization Headaches

Dealing with prior authorization forms can be a big disruption to a provider's workday. We have some suggestions for streamlining that process.

USFHP and our providers are required to follow the Uniform Formulary, a formulary set forth by the Department of Defense/Defense Health Agency. Government contracts, require prior authorization for many medications, as they can cost ten to as much as fifty times more than comparable drugs in the same class. Government contract pricing is confidential, so you as a provider will only know that the medication you selected is not a preferred agent when you receive a prior authorization form.



Here are some tips for filling out USFHP prior authorization forms:

1. The forms often have you skip to another question based on your response. Just answer the questions that apply to your patient.
2. The first questions ask whether the patient had an adequate trial or treatment failed with the preferred medication. If the preferred agent is a good therapy for your patient, simply

switch the patient to that medication and return the form with a message such as "changing to preferred drug."

3. If no response has been received after 72 hours, a repeat prior authorization form will be sent out. To avoid duplicate prior authorization forms, try to finish paperwork by the next business day.
4. Simply sending medical charts is usually not sufficient. It gives the insurer more information than is needed and HIPAA requires that we share the minimum amount of information necessary for the task. In addition, chart notes often do not contain information on certain labs or historically relevant data needed to make a final determination.

Here are a few hints that can help you avoid prior authorizations altogether:

1. If there is a generic in the drug class, it most often will NOT need prior authorization.
2. Diabetes drugs often trigger prior authorizations. Brand Lantus (not the biosimilars) is the preferred long-acting insulin. Brand drugs that are preferred in their class include Trulicity, Bydureon, and Jardiance.
3. Humira is the biologic treatment for many auto-immune disorders.

Help patients save with mail order. Finally, selecting MXP Pharmacy as the pharmacy of choice for chronic medications will ensure that USFHP patients are getting the most medication (up to 90 days) at the lowest copayment. In addition, MXP pharmacists are highly experienced in working with USFHP patients and the Uniform Formulary.