

Member Medication Prior Authorization

Helping manage prescription costs

What is medication prior authorization? Why does my medication need prior authorization?

Your pharmacy benefit covers many medications that may be prescribed by your physician, but not all medications are automatically covered. Your pharmacy benefit includes a formulary or preferred medication list that contains commonly prescribed medications that are automatically covered when prescribed to you. If your doctor prescribes a medication that is not on the list, and there is not another medication on the list that is appropriate for you, the prior authorization process allows your physician to request coverage of the medication so you don't have to pay full price for the drug.

What other reasons would require my physician to use prior authorization?

Your pharmacy benefit determines the medications, dosage and quantities included on your preferred medication list. When your doctor writes a prescription that varies from what is normally covered (e.g., a larger quantity or dosage), it may be necessary for you to receive authorization prior to filling the prescription. If approved, this will allow your medication to be covered by your benefit. When your prescription reaches the pharmacy, the pharmacist will receive a message if prior authorization is required and will notify your doctor. Some medications, such as those used for cosmetic purposes, may be excluded from your pharmacy benefit coverage and may not be available even with a prior authorization. It is best to consult your pharmacy benefit information for details.

How long does prior authorization take?

Most prior authorization requests are handled within two business days. If the submitted request is incomplete, additional time may be needed so your physician can submit all the information required for a complete review of the request. If your prior authorization has been approved, then your medication will be covered under your pharmacy benefit.

What if my prior authorization request is not approved?

If the request is not approved, you will receive a letter from MedImpact explaining why the request was not approved and the steps you can take to appeal the decision. Your physician also may decide to recommend an alternative medication. Keep in mind that medications that have been prescribed for you are always available for purchase at full cost. However, using medications on your formulary, or receiving prior authorization approval when necessary, can help you manage the amount you pay for medications and help avoid extra out-of-pocket costs.



For additional information on this process, contact us

Call or visit

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