

OptumRx Communication

COVID-19 Policy Update

We are closely monitoring the impact across the country from the COVID-19 situation and are taking further action to support you and your members at this time. As new and rapidly evolving information is known, we are assessing our policies and procedures to ensure we continue to meet the clinical needs of your members and comply with applicable CDC guidance, as well as Federal, State and Local government requirements.

We recently communicated our decision to allow members to refill their maintenance medications early to ensure they have an uninterrupted supply of medication during the COVID-19 threat. Similarly, I'd like to inform you of two new policies we are putting into place to support you, your members and providers during this time.

OptumRx Prior Authorization (PA) Extension:

To meet the needs of members and to limit the burden on a stressed provider network amid the COVID-19 outbreak, OptumRx is extending existing PAs that are set to expire on or before May 1, 2020. This policy will go into effect **March 19, 2020 at 12:00pm (noon) CST.**

1. This intervention will ensure that convenient access to critical medications is maintained during this period when vulnerable populations are being directed to take precautionary measures.
2. OptumRx will automatically extend existing PA approvals for most chronic medications set to expire prior to May 1, 2020 for an additional 90 days.
3. OptumRx will re-evaluate the need for further extensions thereafter.
4. Drugs with significant abuse potential (i.e., opioids) or those that are generally dosed for finite durations or intermittently (i.e., hepatitis agents, fertility agents) as identified by OptumRx will follow normal process for renewals.
5. Prior authorization requirements for medications that are newly prescribed will remain in place.

OptumRx Specialty Medications Extended Supply Distribution:

During the COVID-19 outbreak, when a patient calls to refill their specialty medication, Optum Specialty Pharmacy will offer patients a one-time, 90-day supply of key chronic specialty medications. This policy will go into effect **the week of March 23, 2020.**

1. OptumRx will allow the OptumRx specialty pharmacy the ability to offer patients a one-time 90-day supply of key chronic specialty medications (versus the traditional 30 day supply).
2. Drugs within the following categories will remain limited to 30 days supply only:
 - Acute medications
 - Controlled substances
 - Drugs subject to REMS programming requiring 30 day dispensing and monitoring
 - Drugs with limited expiration dating
 - Drugs where storage/handling issues would increase risk of waste
 - Office-administered injectable/infusible therapies
 - Drugs experiencing supply shortages
 - Drugs dosed less frequently than once monthly
 - Drugs whose monthly ingredient cost exceeds \$10,000
3. This policy will not auto-dispense medications in supplies >30 days without direct consent of the patient.
4. This policy will also not apply to patients who are newly initiated on a specialty therapy.