Janet T. Mills
Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D.
Commissioner

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Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Toll Free: (866) 796-2463; TTY: Dial 711 (Maine Relay)
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Pharmacy Benefit Update Fall/Winter 2020 Issue

Preferred Drug List (PDL) News

PDL Changes: This issue of the Pharmacy Benefit Updates contains information about changes to the Preferred Drug List for January 1, 2021, as well as updates on MaineCare pharmacy benefit changes.

Preferred			
ABILIFY MAINTENA	ASPIRIN-DIPYRIDAMOLE ER CPMP 12HR	BONJESTA	CIMDUO
CINQAIR	COLCRYS	DERMOTIC	EVAMIST
FASENRA	FASENRA AUTO INJCT	IMATINIB MESYLATE	INVOKAMET
INVOKANA	NOVOLOG	NOVOLOG MIX	NUVESSA
STIOLTO	TAKHZYRO	XOLAIR	ZIEXTENZO
ZTLIDO			
Non-Preferred			
ZYPREXA RELPREVV	COLCHICINE TAB	COSENTYX	CENTANY OINT 2%
Following drugs are no longer available and have been removed from the PDL			
AGGRENOX	AKWA TEARS OINT	ALTABAX	ARCAPTA
AVELOX TABLETS	CAFERGOT TABLETS	CANASA SUPPOSITORIES	COSOPT
CRIXIVAN CAPSULES	DETROL LA	DUAC GEL	DURAGESIC PT72
DUZALLO	ELESTAT	EMBEDA	FAZACLO
IMITREX VIAL	INVIRASE CAPSULES	MEGACE SUSPENSION	ORTHO-CEPT
PATADAY SOLN	PAZEO	REQUIP XL TABS	SEEBRI NEOHALER
SYMBYAX	TECHNIVIE	TIOCONAZOLE OIN	TWYNSTA
ULTRAM	UTIBRON	VIRAMUNE TABLETS	ZURAMPIC

Preferred with criteria
AIMOVIG, AJOVY and AJOVY AUTO INJECTOR: The patient is 18 years of age or older AND patient has a diagnosis of episodic migraine (4-14 headache days per month with migraine lasting 4 hours or more) or chronic migraine (≥ 15 headache days per month, of which ≥ 8 are migraine days, for at least 3 months) AND patient has failed or has a contraindication to an adequate trial (≥ 60 days) of at least 2 medications for migraine prophylaxis from at least 2 different classes.
AUSTEDO will be preferred with a clinical PA required for appropriate diagnosis.
BAQSIMI will be preferred and require a step through Glucagen.
BOTOX and DYSPORT will be preferred with a clinical PA required for appropriate diagnosis.
DUPIXENT will be added to the ANTIASTHMATIC - ANTIINFLAMMATORY AGENTS category as non-preferred for patients with severe asthma aged 12 years or older and eosinophilia.
EPIDIOLEX is for the treatment of seizures associated with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome (LGS) or Dravet syndrome (DS) in patients 2 years of age and older and will require a clinical PA for appropriate diagnosis.
NURTEC ODT will be preferred after 2 adequate trials of at least two preferred triptans.
TALTZ will be preferred for the indication of plaque psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis.
ZOLGENSMA will be non-preferred with a clinical PA required for appropriate diagnosis and medical necessity.

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XELJANZ is limited to adults with moderate to severe RA and UC who have had an inadequate response or intolerance to methotrexate. Should not be used concomitantly with biologic DMARDs or potent Immunosuppressants and will require a clinical PA for appropriate diagnosis.
SHINGRIX (>= 50yo) and ZOSTAVAX (>= 60yo) are preferred as of 11-20-20 with their respective age edit.

COVID-19

MaineCare would like to update providers on the recent addition of the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to the MaineCare drug file. In anticipation of the availability of the vaccines to the general public for vaccination MaineCare is currently working with its vendors to adjudicate these vaccines through the medical and pharmacy systems. Further instructions on use and billing will be forthcoming as the details are worked out.

RSV Season

MaineCare has updated the Synagis prior authorization requirements for the upcoming RSV season. MaineCare will approve Synagis® PA requests for infants who meet the following guidelines. PA requests will be approved starting at the onset of RSV season for a maximum of 5 doses and a dosing interval not less than 30 days between injections. For MaineCare members, PA requests began November 2, 2020 for dates of service starting November 30, 2020. Synagis® were not to be authorized for administration prior to this date. Synagis® dosing authorizations will extend for the recommended number of doses or until the end of epidemic RSV season as defined by CDC - whichever occurs first. For a complete list of Synagis criteria please refer to the Synagis prior authorization form at www.mainecarepdl.org.

Utilization of 196 Override

MaineCare would like to remind pharmacies the about the appropriate use of the 196 override. Pharmacies can utilize the 196 override to fill a 4 day (96 hour) emergency supply, but this override should only be used outside of normal Help Desk Hours. An example of the 196 could be used to fill an emergency 4-day supply of a non-preferred product or Buprenorphine mono for a pregnant MaineCare member. In this case both a diagnosis of pregnancy and opiate use disorder are required to be written/printed on the prescription.

How do I submit the PA

- Click on the link for the PA form. (Accessed in the Excel sheet or on MaineCarePDL.org).
- Print out the PA form, fill it out and fax it to the number at the top of the form. (See “Additional Information” on the following page if you have questions about filling out the form).

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- PA's may be submitted through the Provider Rx Portal at https://providerportal.megov.changehealthcare.com/mepp/report/index.joi (requires registration).

Identifying the need for a PA:

- A PA is typically required when:
- The desired drug is non-preferred;
- The desired quantity / days supp exceeds dosing limits;
- The desired medication has drug-drug interactions with another drug in patient's profile;
- The patient has exceeded the maximum allowable time on the desired medication, or the desired drug needs confirmation of an approved diagnosis.

Types of PA forms:

- If it's determined a PA is necessary, PA forms can be obtained from the MaineCare PDL website (www.mainecarepdl.org). The comment section, next to each category in the PDL document, indicates which PA form needs to be completed. PA forms can also be found under the "Prior Authorization (PA) Forms & Related Info" link on the same website. The PA forms will be listed by the PA reference number indicated in the PDL document. The PA form can be downloaded and printed by downloading and opening the desired form.

Completing the PA form:

- The PA form must contain all required information in order for it to be processed in a timely manner. If required information is missing from the PA form, or the wrong PA form is submitted, the submitting provider may receive a fax (or mail) notification form CHC indicating the remaining information required to complete the PA. All required information at the top of the form must be completed for the PA to be accepted:
- Member Name, MaineCare ID#, and date of birth;
- Prescribing doctor's name, DEA number, address, contact phone, and fax number; All drug information indicated on the form;
- All questions indicated on the form; Documentation of any pertinent medical necessity;
- Required lab records or additional documentation must be attached to the PA form as needed to support documentation of medical necessity, and
- Prescribers signature and the date.
- A fax number is located at the top of the PA form (1-888-879-6938). The completed PA form can be faxed to this number (recommended) or, if necessary, it can be mailed to Change Healthcare.

MAT (medication assisted treatment) web link – COMING SOON

MaineCare is currently working on creating a new MAT link on the www.mainecarepdl.org website to aid providers to quickly find information important to the treatment of MaineCare members with substance use disorder.

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Prior Authorization (PA) Statistics October 2020

Top Five Drugs by PA	
DRUG	**CLAIM COUNT**
OXYCODONE HYDROCHLORIDE	311
AMPHETAMINE/DEXTROAMPHETA	306
SHINGRIX	217
SUBOXONE	166
HYDROCODONE/ACETAMINOPHEN	145
Top Five Specialty Drugs by PA	
DRUG	**CLAIM COUNT**
MAVYRET	82
HUMIRA PEN	32
CELECOXIB	28
NEXPLANON	24
EMGALITY	23

FDA Alerts

FDA warns about serious breathing problems with seizure and nerve pain medicines gabapentin (Neurontin, Gralise, Horizant) and pregabalin (Lyrica, Lyrica CR)
https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-warns-about-serious-breathing-problems-seizure-and-nerve-pain-medicines-gabapentin-neurontin?utm_campaign=FDA%20MedWatch%20-%20gabapentin%20and%20pregabalin%29%3A%20Drug%20Safety%20Communication&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua

INVIRASE: pregnancy and lactation label updates
http://s2027422842.t.en25.com/e/es?s=2027422842&e=286692&elqTrackId=376c7bc788024cd5a73d955f2e3dcbdc&elq=4e689a40467c423291cd63c181b0c7b6&elqaid=10694&elqat=1

KALETRA and NORVIR: drug-drug interaction updates
http://s2027422842.t.en25.com/e/es?s=2027422842&e=286712&elqTrackId=376c7bc788024cd5a73d955f2e3dcbdc&elq=ae9e9ecc8df44044bd83dd763895863b&elqaid=10697&elqat=1

FDA requests withdrawal of bacitracin for injection from market
https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-requests-withdrawal-bacitracin-injection-market?utm_campaign=FDA%20requests%20withdrawal%20of%20bacitracin%20for%20injection%20from%20market&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua

FDA launches mobile-friendly database with information on life-saving HIV drugs as part of ongoing mission to empower the public through increased access to information and data
https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-launches-mobile-friendly-database-information-life-saving-hiv-drugs-part-ongoing-mission-

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empower?utm_campaign=FDA%20launches%20mobile-friendly%20database%20with%20information%20on%20life-saving%20HIV%20drugs&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua

Clozaril, Fazaclo ODT, Versacloz (clozapine): Drug Safety Communication - FDA Strengthens Warning That Untreated Constipation Can Lead to Serious Bowel Problems
https://www.fda.gov/safety/medical-product-safety-information/clozaril-fazaclo-odt-versacloz-clozapine-drug-safety-communication-fda-strengthens-warning-untreated?utm_campaign=FDA%20MedWatch%3AClozaril%2C%20Fazaclo%20ODT%2C%20Versacloz%20%28clozapine%29-%20Drug%20Safety%20Communication&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua

FDA Approves Three Drugs for Nonprescription Use Through Rx-to-OTC Switch Process
https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-three-drugs-nonprescription-use-through-rx-otc-switch-process?utm_campaign=022420_PR_FDA%20Approves%20Three%20Drugs%20for%20Nonprescription%20Use&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua

Singulair (montelukast) and All Montelukast Generics: Strengthened Boxed Warning - Due to Restricting Use for Allergic Rhinitis
https://www.fda.gov/safety/medical-product-safety-information/singulair-montelukast-and-all-montelukast-generics-strengthened-boxed-warning-due-restricting-use?utm_campaign=FDA%20MedWatch%20Singulair%20%28montelukast%29%3A%20Strengthened%20Boxed%20Warning&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua

FDA Approves Label Changes to SGLT2 Inhibitors Regarding Temporary Discontinuation of Medication Before Scheduled Surgery
http://s2027422842.t.en25.com/e/es?s=2027422842&e=312214&elqTrackId=376c7bc788024cd5a73d955f2e3dcbdc&elq=d700e2d071b343878fdae02a4ebbbf19&elqaid=11643&elqat=1

Opioid Pain Relievers or Medicines to Treat Opioid Use Disorder: MedWatch Safety Alert - FDA Recommends Health Care Professionals Discuss Naloxone with All Patients when Prescribing
https://www.fda.gov/safety/medical-product-safety-information/opioid-pain-relievers-or-medicines-treat-opioid-use-disorder-medwatch-safety-alert-fda-recommends?utm_campaign=FDA%20MedWatch%20-%20Opioid%20Pain%20Relievers%20or%20Medicines%20to%20Treat%20OUD%3A%20MedWatch%20Safety%20Alert%20&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua

Benadryl (diphenhydramine): Drug Safety Communication - Serious Problems with High Doses of the Allergy Medicine
https://www.fda.gov/safety/medical-product-safety-information/benadryl-diphenhydramine-drug-safety-communication-serious-problems-high-doses-allergy-medicine?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

FDA Requiring Labeling Changes for Benzodiazepines

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https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-requiring-boxed-warning-updated-improve-safe-use-benzodiazepine-drug-class

Invokana, Invokamet, Invokamet XR (canagliflozin): MedWatch Safety Alert - Boxed Warning about Risk of Leg and Foot Amputations Removed
https://www.fda.gov/safety/medical-product-safety-information/invokana-invokamet-invokamet-xr-canagliflozin-medwatch-safety-alert-boxed-warning-about-risk-leg-and?utm_campaign=FDA%20MedWatch%20-%20Invokana%2C%20Invokamet%2C%20Invokamet%20XR%20%28canagliflozin%29%3A%20MedWatch%20Safety%20Alert&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua

Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Committee Meetings

Comments on the PDL or any PAs, either proposed or already in effect, may be made at these meetings or by e-mail, letter, or phone if more convenient.

Date: March 10, 2021
Time: 5:30-8:30pm
Location: The Armory, Augusta (Augusta, ME)

For DUR questions, you may contact:
Jan Wright, Interim Pharmacy Director, MaineCare Services
Jan.Wright@maine.gov

For PA/PDL questions, you may contact:
Michael Ouellette, R.Ph mouellette@changehealthcare.com
Jeffrey Barkin, MD jbarkin@changehealthcare.com

Pharmacy Help Desk Hours:
Monday- Friday 8am- 5pm

For emergencies the Pharmacy Help Desk:
Monday- Friday 5pm-8pm
Saturday 8am- 8pm
Sunday 8am- 8pm

Please leave a message on the urgent voicemail and your call will be returned 15 minutes all non-urgent voicemails will be returned the next business day.