

# Pharmacy Benefits in Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT)

Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing

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# Overview of Today's Presentation

- Pharmacy Benefit Structure
- Federal and State Requirements
- Prior Authorization Policy
- Drug Utilization Review (DUR) and Public Process
- OTC Coverage
- EPSDT
- Member Support and Resources
- Questions

# Our Mission

At HCPF, our mission is to improve health care equity, access and outcomes for the people we serve while saving Coloradans money on health care and driving value for Colorado. This means we work to make our members healthier while getting the most for every dollar that is spent.

# Pharmacy Benefit Core Principles

- Medication Access
- Medication Safety and Efficacy
- Responsible Use of Pharmacy Funds

# Federal and State Requirements

- Federal:
  - Program requirements (what we *must* cover, exclusions, how drug manufacturers participate, etc.)
- State:
  - Flexibility to decide how to manage benefits within the rules
  - Governed by:
    - Colorado Medicaid State Plan (CMS)
    - Colorado Code of Regulations (Medical Services Board)
    - state statute (state legislature or public vote)

# Prior Authorization: The Policy “Why”

- Prior Authorization as a Drug Management Tool
- Modern Efficiencies in Prior Authorization
- How Prior Authorization Is Different from EPSDT

# Drug Utilization Review (DUR) and the Public Process

- CMS and Federal Requirements for Medicaid Drug Utilization Review (DUR)
- DUR Role in the Prior Authorization Process
- The DUR Public Stakeholder Process

# Over-the-Counter (OTC) Medication Coverage

- How State Medicaid Programs Are Permitted to Cover OTCs
  - Colorado's OTC Coverage
  - OTC Coverage Decisions and Budget Considerations

# Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT)

- A Federal requirement to cover services and treatments that are medically necessary to correct or ameliorate a condition, even if those services are not typically covered for under Colorado Medicaid
- For children aged 20 and under
- Requests completed by providers

# Supporting Families Through the PA/EPSDT Process

- Stay in communication with prescriber (best)
- Pharmacy can verify if PA approval was received
- Health First Colorado Pharmacy helpdesk (Prime)
  - Providers - Assist with processing the PA request
  - Members - Can verify status of PA request

# Contact Information

- Contacting Provider's Office is Recommended
- Health First Colorado Pharmacy Call Center Helpdesk (Prime): 1-800-424-5725
- HCPF Member Contact Center: 1-800-221-3943



# Questions?

# Thank you!