



**COLORADO**  
Department of Health Care  
Policy & Financing

4/7/2020

### **Medication Prior Authorization Deferments**

The Department is temporarily deferring prior authorization (PA) requirements for Health First Colorado members on all medications for which there is an existing 12-month PA approval in place, effective 4/6/2020. Each PA may be extended one time for 90 days. These will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the Magellan Help Desk if requested by an enrolled Health First Colorado healthcare professional (i.e. prescribers and pharmacists or their designees). New PAs and existing PA approvals that are less than 12 months are not eligible for deferment. Please contact the Magellan Help Desk at 1-800-424-5725 for a one-time PA deferment.

### **Zero Copays**

Effective 3/1/2020, the Department is waiving copayments for medications related to COVID-19 when ICD-10 diagnosis code U07.1 is entered on the claim transmittal. Pharmacists should ensure that the diagnosis is documented on the electronic or hardcopy prescription. Please contact the Magellan Help Desk at 1-800-424-5725 for questions.

### **Drug Shortages**

The Department continues to monitor drug shortages and has made the following changes:

- Albuterol: Proair, Ventolin and Proventil albuterol HFA are preferred, effective 3/24/2020.
- Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine: require a Prior Authorization, effective 3/24/2020.

Please refer to the PDL and Appendix P documents on the pharmacy resources webpage <https://www.colorado.gov/hcpf/pharmacy-resources>.

The Magellan Help Desk has a process in place for shortages or backorders and a pharmacy may call the Magellan Help Desk at 1-800-424-5725 for assistance.

### **Signature Requirements**

Signature requirements are temporarily waived for Member Counseling and Proof of Delivery. Pharmacies are expected to keep records indicating when member counseling was not or could not be provided.

### **Early Refills**

Pharmacies are able to override early refills at the point-of-sale (POS) after 50% of medication day supply has lapsed since last fill for reasons related to COVID-19. Use DUE response codes with reason for service code 'ER' at the POS to receive a paid claim. This override is not available for use by mail order pharmacies.

If a member requires a refill before 50% of the day supply has lapsed, a POS override is not available. Please contact the Magellan Help Desk at 1-800-424-5725 for a one-time refill authorization.

### **Prescription Cough and Cold**

- Prescription cough and cold products for all ages will not require a prior authorization for Health First Colorado members, effective 3/25/2020.
- Prescription cough and cold products may be approved with a prior authorization for an acute condition for Dual Eligible (Medicare-Medicaid) members.

Prescription cough and cold products include non-controlled products and guaifenesin/codeine syrup formulations (i.e. Cheratussin AC, Virtussin AC).

### **Maintenance Medications**

Maintenance medications are medications taken on a regular basis for chronic (long-term) conditions. Maintenance medications can be dispensed for up to a 100-day supply and are covered for Health First Colorado members. The maximum day supply for non-maintenance medications is 30 days.

### **Communications**

Please see the Department's web page for previous communication related to COVID-19 and to stay in touch with ongoing changes. <https://www.colorado.gov/hcpf/covid>