Highmark Wholecare
Pharmacy Division
Phone 800-392-1147 Fax 888-245-2049

I. Requirements for Prior Authorization of Neuropathic Pain Agents

A. Prescriptions That Require Prior Authorization

Prescriptions for Neuropathic Pain Agents that meet any of the following conditions must be prior authorized:

1. A non-preferred Neuropathic Pain Agent. See the Preferred Drug List (PDL) for the list of preferred Neuropathic Pain Agents at: https://papdl.com/preferred-drug-list.

2. A prescription for a gabapentinoid when there is a record of a recent paid claim for another gabapentinoid in the point-of-sale on-line claims adjudication system (therapeutic duplication).

B. Review of Documentation for Medical Necessity

In evaluating a request for prior authorization of a prescription for a Neuropathic Pain Agent, the determination of whether the requested prescription is medically necessary will take into account whether the beneficiary:

1. Is being treated for a diagnosis that is indicated in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved package labeling OR a medically accepted indication; **AND**

2. Is prescribed a dose that is consistent with FDA-approved package labeling, nationally recognized compendia, or peer-reviewed medical literature; **AND**

3. For gabapentin extended-release for the treatment of postherpetic neuralgia, has a history of **both** of the following:

   a. Therapeutic failure of the maximum tolerated dose of a tricyclic antidepressant or a contraindication or an intolerance to tricyclic antidepressants
   b. Therapeutic failure of the maximum tolerated dose of immediate-release gabapentin or a contraindication or an intolerance to immediate-release gabapentin that would not be expected to occur with the requested drug;

   AND

4. For gabapentin enacarbil extended-release, **one** of the following:

   a. For the treatment of postherpetic neuralgia, has a history of **both** of the following:

      i. Therapeutic failure of the maximum tolerated dose of a tricyclic antidepressant or a contraindication or an intolerance to tricyclic antidepressants
      ii. Therapeutic failure of the maximum tolerated dose of immediate-release gabapentin or a contraindication or an intolerance to immediate-release gabapentin that would not be expected to occur with the requested drug

   b. For the treatment of moderate to severe primary restless legs syndrome, has a history of therapeutic failure of the maximum tolerated dose of immediate-release gabapentin or a contraindication or an intolerance to immediate-release gabapentin that would not be expected to occur with the requested drug;

AND

5. For all other non-preferred Neuropathic Pain Agents, has a history of therapeutic failure of or a contraindication or an intolerance to the preferred Neuropathic Pain Agents approved or medically accepted for the beneficiary's diagnosis; **AND**

6. For therapeutic duplication of a gabapentinoid, **one** of the following:

    a. Is being titrated to or tapered from another gabapentinoid
    b. Has a medical reason for concomitant use of the requested drugs that is supported by peer-reviewed medical literature or national treatment guidelines;

    NOTE: If the beneficiary does not meet the clinical review guidelines listed above but, in the professional judgment of the physician reviewer, the services are medically necessary to meet the medical needs of the beneficiary, the request for prior authorization will be approved.

FOR RENEWALS OF PRIOR AUTHORIZATION FOR NEUROPATHIC PAIN AGENTS: The determination of medical necessity of a request for renewal of a prior authorization for a Neuropathic Pain Agent that was previously approved will take into account whether the beneficiary:

1. Has documentation of a positive clinical response to the requested drug; **AND**

2. For a non-preferred Neuropathic Pain Agent except gabapentin extended-release and gabapentin enacarbil extended-release, has a history of therapeutic failure of or a contraindication or an intolerance to the preferred Neuropathic Pain Agents approved or medically accepted for the beneficiary's diagnosis; **AND**

3. For therapeutic duplication of a gabapentinoid, **one** of the following:

    a. Is being titrated to or tapered from another gabapentinoid
    b. Has a medical reason for concomitant use of the requested drugs that is supported by peer-reviewed medical literature or national treatment guidelines;

    NOTE: If the beneficiary does not meet the clinical review guidelines listed above but, in the professional judgment of the physician reviewer, the services are medically necessary to meet the medical needs of the beneficiary, the request for prior authorization will be approved.

C. Clinical Review Process

Prior authorization personnel will review the request for prior authorization and apply the clinical guidelines in Section B. above to assess the medical necessity of a prescription for a Neuropathic Pain Agent. If the guidelines in Section B. are met, the reviewer will prior authorize the prescription. If the guidelines are not met, the prior authorization request will be referred to a physician reviewer for a medical necessity determination. Such a request for prior authorization will be approved when, in the professional judgment of the physician reviewer, the services are medically necessary to meet the medical needs of the beneficiary.

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NON-PREFERRED MEDICATION PRIOR AUTHORIZATION FORM *(form effective 01/01/20)*

☐New request ☐Renewal request	# of pages: _____	Prescriber name:	
Name of office contact:		Specialty:	
Contact's phone number:		NPI:	State license #:
LTC facility contact/phone:		Street address:	
Beneficiary name:		Suite #:	City/State/Zip:
Beneficiary ID#:	DOB:	Phone:	Fax:

Please refer to https://papdl.com/preferred-drug-list for the list of preferred and non-preferred medications in each Preferred Drug List class.

Non-preferred medication name:	Dosage form:	Strength:
Directions:	Quantity:	Refills:
Diagnosis *(submit documentation)*:	Dx code (*required*):	

Has the beneficiary taken the requested non-preferred medication in the past 90 days? *(submit documentation)*..... ☐Yes ☐No

Describe all applicable medical reasons the beneficiary cannot use the preferred medication(s) in the same Preferred Drug List class. *Submit documentation (e.g., recent chart/clinic notes, diagnostic evaluations, lab results, etc.) supporting this non-preferred request.*

☐Treatment failure or inadequate response with preferred medication(s) *(include drug name, dose, and start/stop dates)*:

_____

_____

☐Unacceptable side effects, hypersensitivities, or other intolerances to preferred medication(s) *(include description and drug name(s))*:

_____

_____

☐Contraindication to preferred medication(s) *(include description and drug name(s))*:

_____

_____

☐Unique clinical or age-specific indications supported by FDA approval or medical literature *(describe)*:

_____

_____

☐Absence of preferred medication(s) with appropriate formulation *(list medical reason formulation is required)*:

_____

_____

☐Drug-drug interaction with preferred medication(s) *(describe)*:

_____

_____

☐Other medical reason(s) the beneficiary cannot use the preferred medication(s) *(describe)*:

_____

_____

☐**For renewal requests of previously approved medications, submit documentation of tolerability and beneficiary's clinical response.**

PLEASE FAX COMPLETED FORM WITH SUPPORTING CLINICAL DOCUMENTATION

Prescriber Signature:	**Date**:

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