

Prior authorization notice

Summary of change: Prior authorization (PA) criteria for members receiving multiple benzodiazepines concurrently was reviewed and approved by the Mental Health Medication Advisory Committee and the Kansas Drug Utilization Review Board. Effective June 6, 2016, members receiving three or more different benzodiazepines used concurrently within 30 days will require PA. To facilitate continuity of care, members currently established on three or more different benzodiazepines used concurrently within 30 days prior to June 6, 2016, will not be subject to this PA requirement for six months. The use of multiple concurrent benzodiazepines PA criteria may be found on the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) website at www.kdheks.gov/hcf/pharmacy/pa_criteria.htm.

✦ **What this means to you:** Effective June 6, 2016, the following drugs require PA:

- Alprazolam (Xanax®)
- Alprazolam ER & XR (Xanax XR®)
- Chlordiazepoxide
- Clonazepam (Klonopin®)
- Clorazepate (Tranxene-T)
- Diazepam (Valium®) (Diazepam rectal gel not included)
- Estazolam
- Flurazepam
- Lorazepam (Ativan®)
- Oxazepam
- Quazepam (Doral®)
- Temazepam (Restoril®)
- Triazolam (Halcion®)

Criteria for PA for patients receiving multiple benzodiazepines concurrently:

- Three or more different benzodiazepines used concurrently within 30 days will require PA
 - Peer-to-peer consult with health plan psychiatrist, medical director or pharmacy director for approval
 - Patients with documented seizure diagnosis will automatically be approved

Length of approval: Six months

What action do I need to take?

Effective June 6, 2016, you will need to obtain PA for members prescribed three or more different benzodiazepines used concurrently within 30 days as noted above. To facilitate continuity of care, members currently established on three or more different benzodiazepines used concurrently within 30 days prior to June 6, 2016, will not be subject to this PA requirement for six months.

What if I need assistance?

To obtain a PA, please call our Pharmacy PA department at 1-855-201-7170 and follow the voice prompts for pharmacy PA.

If you need assistance with any other item, contact your local Provider Relations representative or call Provider Services at 1-800-454-3730.