



Prior Authorization Drug Program

The variety of drugs available to treat medical conditions/illnesses are on the rise. The introduction of many expensive therapies, including biologics and specialty drugs has increased the complexity of ensuring the right drug is being prescribed for the right patient.

Certain prescription drugs require prior authorization before they can be considered for reimbursement.

Of the more than more than 9,000 different drugs typically covered under a plan, about 250 are specialized and require prior authorization from us.

The factors associated with treating a serious illness or condition, including wondering whether your plan will cover the costs or not, can be stressful.

The Co-operators employs a dedicated team to assist plan members through the steps required to determine if the plan will cover the costs of a specific medication. Prior authorization drugs are typically more prevalent for certain diseases, such as:

- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Crohn's/colitis
- Multiple sclerosis
- Hepatitis C
- Psoriasis
- Cancer
- Hypercholesterolemia
- Rare genetic disorders

If a plan member or dependent has been prescribed a drug that requires prior authorization, the physician will need to complete the appropriate form and submit it to The Co-operators for approval. Any cost incurred for the completion of prior authorization form is the responsibility of the patient/plan member. The forms can be found on www.cooperators.ca or Benefits Now™ for Plan Members.

Prior authorization requests for drugs are reviewed by pharmaceutical experts who consider the patient's disease state and their entire medical case, along with the eligibility of the drug within the plan. Our goal is to ensure that members have access to broad prescription drug coverage while promoting safe, clinically appropriate drug usage according to guidelines developed by The Co-operators medical resources and with consideration to Health Canada's approved indications. In addition, we aim to make the process thorough, yet as simple as possible, avoiding any additional stress to the plan member.

Plan members can contact the Group Client Service Centre at 1-800-667-8164 between 8:00 a.m. EST and 5:00 p.m. CST with their inquiries.