

Clinical Policy: Bronchodilators, Beta Agonists

Reference Number: PHW.PDL.037

Effective Date: 01/01/2020

Last Review Date: 11/2025

Policy/Criteria

Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.

It is the policy of PA Health & Wellness® that Beta Agonist Bronchodilators are **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Requirements for Prior Authorization of Bronchodilators, Beta Agonists

A. Prescriptions That Require Prior Authorization

Prescriptions for Bronchodilators, Beta Agonists that meet any of the following conditions must be prior authorized:

1. A non-preferred Bronchodilator, Beta Agonist. See the Preferred Drug List (PDL) for the list of preferred Bronchodilators, Beta Agonists at: <https://papdl.com/preferred-drug-list>.
2. A Bronchodilator, Beta Agonist with a prescribed quantity that exceeds the quantity limit.
3. An inhaled long-acting Bronchodilator, Beta Agonist when there is a record of a recent paid claim for another agent that contains an inhaled long-acting beta agonist (therapeutic duplication).

B. Review of Documentation for Medical Necessity

In evaluating a request for prior authorization of a prescription for a Bronchodilator, Beta Agonist, the determination of whether the requested prescription is medically necessary will take into account whether the member:

1. **One** of the following:
 - a. For a non-preferred inhaled short-acting Bronchodilator, Beta Agonist, has a history of therapeutic failure, contraindication, or intolerance of the preferred inhaled short-acting Bronchodilators, Beta Agonists,
 - b. For a non-preferred inhaled long-acting Bronchodilator, Beta Agonist, has a history of therapeutic failure, contraindication, or intolerance of the preferred inhaled long-acting Bronchodilators, Beta Agonists,
 - c. For a non-preferred oral Bronchodilator, Beta Agonist, has a history of therapeutic failure, contraindication, or intolerance of the preferred inhaled

Bronchodilators, Beta Agonists approved or medically accepted for the member's diagnosis or indication;

AND

2. For therapeutic duplication, **one** of the following:
 - a. Is being titrated to or tapered from a drug in the same class
 - b. Has a clinical reason for concomitant use of the requested medications that is supported by peer-reviewed literature or national treatment guidelines;

AND

3. If a prescription for a Bronchodilator, Beta Agonist is in a quantity that exceeds the quantity limit, the determination of whether the prescription is medically necessary will also take into account the guidelines set forth in PA.CP.PMN.59 Quantity Limit Override.

NOTE: If the member 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 member, 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 Bronchodilator, Beta Agonist. 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 member.

D. Approval Duration: 12 months

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date
Policy created	01/01/2020
Q1 2021 annual review: no changes.	01/2021
Q1 2022: revised according to DHS revisions effective 01/03/2022	10/2021
Q1 2023 annual review: no changes.	11/2022
Q1 2024 annual review: no changes.	11/2023
Q1 2025 annual review: no changes.	11/2024
Q1 2026 annual review: no changes.	11/2025