Clinical Policy: Methotrexate

Reference Number: PHW.PDL.554
Effective Date: 01/01/2020
Last Review Date: 11/2024

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 Methotrexate is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Requirements for Prior Authorization of Methotrexate

A. Prescriptions That Require Prior Authorization

The following prescriptions for Methotrexate require prior authorization:

1. A prescription for a non-preferred Methotrexate.

2. A prescription for a preferred or non-preferred Methotrexate with a prescribed quantity that exceeds the quantity limit.

B. Clinical Review Guidelines and Review of Documentation for Medical Necessity

In evaluating a request for prior authorization of a prescription for a non-preferred Methotrexate, the determination of whether the requested prescription is medically necessary will take into account whether the member:

1. For a non-preferred Methotrexate, has a documented history of therapeutic failure, a contraindication to or intolerance of the preferred products **AND**

2. If a prescription for a Methotrexate is for 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 the request for a prescription for Methotrexate. 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:**
   - **New request: 6 months**
   - **Renewal request: 12 months**

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date
Policy created	01/01/2020
Q3 2020 annual review: no changes.	07/2020
Q1 2021 annual review: no changes.	01/2021
Q1 2022 annual review: no changes.	10/2021
Q3 2022: Updated wording per DHS	07/2022
Q1 2023 annual review: no changes.	11/2022
Q1 2024 annual review: no changes.	11/2023
Q1 2025 annual review: no changes.	11/2024