

## Subject: New York formulary and Prior Authorization Portal

### Prior Authorization System:

The New York Workers' Compensation Board (NYWCB) is currently developing an electronic Drug Formulary Prior Authorization (PA) System, which will be accessed on the Board's [website](#) through the Medical Portal. The Board plans to have the portal available in November 2019.

The PA system will have the following functions:

- Allow providers to request PAs from payers for non-formulary medications
- Provide a dashboard for tracking and responding to submitted PA requests
- Allow users to maintain and update user access, roles, and contact information

### Your Responsibilities as the Payer:

Once the portal becomes available, each payer's administrator will be notified and must then log into the application to identify their Level 1, Level 2, and Order of the Chair (OOC) contacts for their organization, as well as an electronic mailbox for each. The electronic mailboxes will be used to automatically route provider PA requests to the payer designated contacts.

- Level 1 contact – May be claim administrator of insurance carrier, Third-party Administrator (TPA), or Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) if designated.
- Level 2 contact – Must be the Medical Director of insurance carrier or TPA.
- OOC contact – Insurer and Claim administrator of insurance carrier or TPA.

The ability to enter contacts into the application is expected to be available starting September 1, 2019.

### What Else is Changing

On August 7, 2019, the Board released a revised version of the Drug Formulary incorporating additional public comments. Some of the updates include:

- Added special considerations category: "3 – short acting formulations only," which means that drugs designated with a "3" in the Special Considerations column of the drug formulary may be prescribed or dispensed for the short acting formulation only. Examples of such drugs are opioids and muscle relaxants.
- Removed agent(s) from the formulary altogether
- Restricted agent(s) to specific strengths (i.e., topical diclofenac restricted to 1% only)
- Changed agent(s) from 2<sup>nd</sup> line formulary to 1<sup>st</sup> line formulary for specific body parts

Additionally, the NYWCB has announced a proposed regulation to adopt Medical Treatment Guidelines to be effective January 31, 2020 for the following injury types: Hip/Groin, Foot/Ankle, Elbow, and Occupation Interstitial Lung Disease. Current guidelines cover Lumbar and Thoracic Spine, Cervical Spine, Knee, Shoulder, Carpal Tunnel syndrome, and Non-acute Pain.

As a reminder, new prescriptions must comply with the formulary by December 5, 2019 and refill prescriptions must comply by June 5, 2020. By December 5, 2019, First Script will send out notifications to medical providers and injured workers if a current prescription is not on the formulary.

For more detailed information about the Drug Formulary and the Prior Authorization Portal, please visit:

<http://www.wcb.ny.gov/drug-formulary-regulation/Text-Part-441-drug-formulary.pdf>

If you have additional questions, please contact your Account Manager or Account Pharmacist.