



Important Provider Notice



8.1.2022

Tramadol

Requires a Prior Authorization*

Short acting opioids, including Tramadol, require Prior Authorization for Pennsylvania Medicaid

Consider using CoverMyMeds to streamline the prior authorization process.

Visit covermymeds.com for more information

Tips for Prior Authorization Submission

Include documentation of all of the following in the request:

- A recent **urine drug screen (UDS)** and the date of completion
- The **Pennsylvania Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)** has been searched
- The member's pain is caused by a medical condition and is not migraine in type
- For members **under 21**, the pain is **severe** as documented by a pain assessment tool
- For members **21 and older**, the pain is **moderate to severe** as documented by a pain assessment tool
- The anticipated duration of therapy
- Therapeutic failure or contraindication to non-pharmacologic and non-opioid treatment
- The opioid will be used in combination with non-pharmacologic and non-opioid treatment
- The member was assessed for recent use of opioids and risk of misuse, abuse or addiction
- If at high risk for opioid-related harm, the prescriber considered prescribing naloxone
- The member was educated on adverse effects
- The member is not taking a benzodiazepine unless it is being tapered or concomitant use is medically necessary. Provide rationale to support medical necessity.

Criteria does not apply if the member is 18 years or older with a diagnosis of active cancer or sickle cell with crisis or is receiving palliative care or hospice services

Important Reminders for Submitting a Prior Authorization

- ✓ Be sure to submit the date of the recent urine drug screen and PDMP confirmation

*When prescribed for over a 5 day supply in members 21 and older, over a 3 day supply in members age 18-20, and all members under 18 years of age. Please visit [Highmarkwholecare.com](https://highmarkwholecare.com) to view the preferred drugs, the most up to date Opioid criteria and to access drug specific request forms.

Health benefits or health benefit administration may be provided by or through Highmark Wholecare, coverage by Gateway Health Plan, an independent licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association ("Highmark Wholecare").