pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

ISSUE DATE	EFFECTIVE DATE	NUMBER
July 2, 2024	July 15, 2024	*See below

SUBJECT

Prior Authorization of Casgevy (exagamglogene autotemcel) – Pharmacy Services

BY

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IMPORTANT REMINDER: All providers must revalidate the Medical Assistance (MA) enrollment of each service location every 5 years. Providers should log into PROMISe to check the revalidation dates of each service location and submit revalidation applications at least 60 days prior to the revalidation dates. Enrollment (revalidation) applications may be found at: https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/dhs/resources/for-providers/promise/promise-provider-enrollment.html.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to:

1. Inform providers that the Department of Human Services (Department) will require prior authorization of prescriptions for Casgevy (exagamglogene autotemcel).
2. Issue new handbook pages that include the requirements for prior authorization and the type of information needed to evaluate the medical necessity of prescriptions for Casgevy (exagamglogene autotemcel) submitted for prior authorization.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to all licensed pharmacies and prescribers enrolled in the Medical Assistance (MA) Program. The guidelines to determine the medical necessity of Casgevy (exagamglogene autotemcel) will be utilized in the fee-for-service and managed care delivery systems. Providers rendering services to MA beneficiaries in the managed care delivery

*01-24-10	09-24-10	27-24-07	33-24-10
02-24-06	11-24-05	30-24-05	
03-24-05	14-24-06	31-24-11	
08-24-11	24-24-08	32-24-05	

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The appropriate toll-free number for your provider type.

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/dhs/resources/for-providers/ma-for-providers/contact-information-for-ma-providers.html.

system should address any questions related to the prior authorization of Casgevy (exagamglogene autotemcel) to the appropriate managed care organization.

BACKGROUND:

The Department's Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board meets to review provider prescribing and dispensing practices for efficacy, safety, and quality and to recommend interventions for prescribers and pharmacists through the Department's Prospective DUR and Retrospective DUR programs.

DISCUSSION:

During the May 16, 2024, meeting, the DUR Board recommended that the Department require prior authorization of prescriptions for Casgevy (exagamglogene autotemcel) to ensure appropriate utilization of Casgevy (exagamglogene autotemcel). The DUR Board recommended guidelines to determine medical necessity of prescriptions for Casgevy (exagamglogene autotemcel) that were subject to public review and comment and subsequently approved for implementation by the Department.

PROCEDURE:

The procedures for prescribers to request prior authorization of Casgevy (exagamglogene autotemcel) are located in SECTION I of the Prior Authorization of Pharmaceutical Services Handbook. The Department will take into account the elements specified in the clinical review guidelines (which are included in the provider handbook pages in the SECTION II chapter related to Casgevy (exagamglogene autotemcel)) when reviewing the prior authorization request to determine medical necessity.

As set forth in 55 Pa. Code § 1101.67(a), the procedures described in the handbook pages must be followed to ensure appropriate and timely processing of prior authorization requests for drugs and products that require prior authorization.

ATTACHMENTS:

Prior Authorization of Pharmaceutical Services Handbook - Updated pages

RESOURCES:

Prior Authorization of Pharmaceutical Services Handbook – SECTION I
Pharmacy Prior Authorization General Requirements
https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/dhs/resources/pharmacy-services/pharmacy-prior-authorization-general-requirements.html

Prior Authorization of Pharmaceutical Services Handbook – SECTION II
Pharmacy Prior Authorization Guidelines
https://www.pa.gov/en/agencies/dhs/resources/pharmacy-services/clinical-guidelines.html

I. Requirements for Prior Authorization of Casgevy (exagamglogene autotemcel)

A. Prescriptions That Require Prior Authorization

All prescriptions for Casgevy (exagamglogene autotemcel) must be prior authorized.

B. Review of Documentation for Medical Necessity

In evaluating a request for prior authorization of a prescription for Casgevy (exagamglogene autotemcel), the determination of whether the requested prescription is medically necessary will take into account whether the beneficiary:

1. Is prescribed Casgevy (exagamglogene autotemcel) for an indication that is included in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved package labeling; **AND**

2. Is age-appropriate according to FDA-approved package labeling; **AND**

3. Is prescribed a dose and number of treatments that are consistent with FDA-approved package labeling; **AND**

4. Is prescribed Casgevy (exagamglogene autotemcel) by a specialist at an authorized treatment center for Casgevy (exagamglogene autotemcel); **AND**

5. Does not have a contraindication to the prescribed medication; **AND**

6. Is not a prior recipient of gene therapy or an allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant; **AND**

7. **One** of the following:

    a. For treatment of sickle cell disease, **both** of the following:

        i. Has sickle cell disease with a βS/βS, βS/β0, or βS/β+ genotype

        ii. **One** of the following:

            a) Has a history of vaso-occlusive episodes (e.g., pain crises, acute chest syndrome, splenic sequestration, priapism) that required a medical facility visit (e.g., emergency department, hospital)
            b) Is currently receiving chronic transfusion therapy for recurrent vaso-occlusive episodes

    b. For treatment of transfusion-dependent β-thalassemia, **both** of the following:

        i. Has genetic testing confirming diagnosis of β-thalassemia
        ii. Has a history of at least 100 mL/kg/year or 8 transfusion episodes/year of packed red blood cell transfusions in the prior 2 years.

NOTE: If the beneficiary 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 beneficiary, 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 Casgevy (exagamglogene autotemcel). 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 beneficiary.

D. Dose and Duration of Therapy

Requests for prior authorization of Casgevy (exagamglogene autotemcel) will be approved for 18 months.

E. References

1. Casgevy [prescribing information]. Boston, MA: Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated; January 2024.
2. The National Institutes of Health – National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Evidence-Based Management of Sickle Cell Disease, Expert Panel Report, 2014. Available at: https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/sites/default/files/media/docs/sickle-cell-disease-report%20020816_0.pdf. Accessed March 2024.
3. Cappellini MD, Farmakis D, Porter J, Taher A, eds. 2021 Guidelines for the Management of Transfusion Dependent Thalassaemia (TDT). 4th ed. Thalassaemia International Federation (TIF). Available at: https://thalassaemia.org.cy/. Accessed March 2024.
4. Frangoul H, Altshuler D, Cappellini MD, et al. CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing for sickle cell disease and β-thalassemia. N Engl J Med. 2021;384:252-260.
5. Connor RF, Fosmarin AG, Tirnauer JS. What's new in hematology. UpToDate [internet database]. Waltham, MA: UpToDate Inc. Updated February 29, 2024. Accessed March 18, 2024.
6. Fitzjugh C. Investigational therapies for sickle cell disease. UpToDate [internet database]. DeBaun MR, Tirnauer JS, eds. Waltham, MA: UpToDate Inc. Updated December 22, 2023. Accessed March 15, 2024.