



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
DIVISION OF MEDICAID

Dr. Robert L. Robinson  
Executive Director

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**TO:** Prescribing Providers  
**FROM:** Phyllis Williams, Deputy Administrator  
**SUBJECT:** **Enhanced Prior Authorization Program for Medications**

This notice provides important information about changes to the Medicaid Pharmacy Program, including modification of drug prior authorization (PA) requirements. The Division of Medicaid (DOM) has implemented SmartPA™, an enhanced electronic prior authorization program, for your Medicaid patients' drug claims. SmartPA™ allows the prescriber to spend less time completing prior authorization forms as it uses a highly sophisticated clinical rules system to determine if evidence-based criteria for appropriate drug use are met. The enhanced process is designed to provide Medicaid beneficiaries the most effective drug at the right price, an efficient means of obtaining the necessary approvals, and assure effective drug utilization. DOM's goal is to streamline the prior authorization process for all stakeholders -- physicians, pharmacists, and beneficiaries as well as allows for adjudication of prior authorization requests online at the pharmacy in real time in seconds.

Enhancements include:

- ✓ **Automation of increased pharmacy benefits for children** – If a Medicaid beneficiary is under age 21 and has a qualifying diagnosis (see SmartPA™ Overview for listing) as determined by claims history, prescriptions exceeding the monthly five prescription limit including the two brand name prescription limit may be automatically approved at the pharmacy requiring no paperwork by the prescriber.
- ✓ **Reduce number of drug classes requiring paper prior authorizations** – nutritionals and immunosuppressant drugs will process like other preferred/non-preferred classes unless authorization is required due to need for a brand name drug. DOM will continue to review all drug classes and move as many as possible to the electronic PA program.
- ✓ **No longer necessary to request PA in certain situations like a dose change** –The pharmacists can now request early refill overrides. DOM will monitor to ensure appropriate use.
- ✓ **Automation of 72-hour emergency supply** – DOM now allows payment for a 72-hour emergency supply of medications via electronic payment instead of requiring a paper claim. The 72-hour emergency supply is for "emergency situations only" when your patient needs a drug without delay and prior authorization is not available such as afterhours or on holidays and the drug is not approved via SmartPA™.

Additional information is provided in the attached Mississippi Medicaid SmartPA™ Overview.

As always, your support is critical to the success of this Medicaid Pharmacy initiative. It is our goal to partner with you in the provision of quality, cost-effective health care to your patients.

# Mississippi Medicaid SmartPA™ Overview

## SmartPA™

The Division of Medicaid has implemented SmartPA™, a new electronic prior authorization program. SmartPA™ works with the pharmacy point of sale (POS) claims processing system by checking historical drug claims and medical claims to determine if prior authorization criteria have been met. Some drugs and/or drug classes previously requiring a manual prior authorization, initiated by the prescriber, will now be processed electronically.

## SmartPA™ Drug Classifications

The following table is a listing of drug classes which will process through SmartPA™.

Ace Inhibitor Products
Alzheimer's Agents
Androgenic Agents
Angiotensin Receptor Blocker Products
Antidepressants, Other
Antidepressants, SSRIs
Antiemetics
Antihistamine/Decongestant Combinations
Antihistamine/Decongestant/Anticholinergic Combinations
Antihistamines, First Generation
Antihistamines, Second Generation
Antihyperuricemics
Antiparkinsons Agents
Atypical Antipsychotics
Beta Agonist Inhalation Solutions

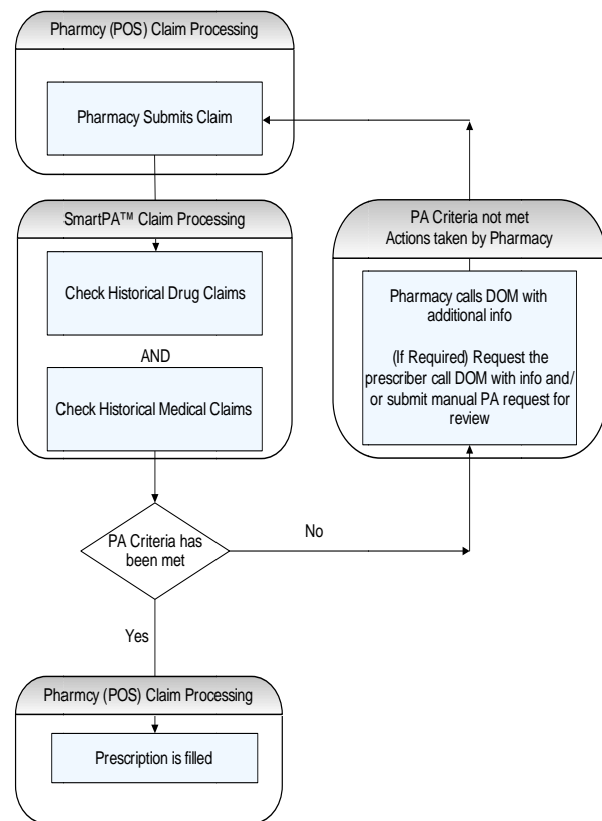
Beta Blockers
Bladder Relaxant/Overactive Bladder Agents
BPH Agents
Calcium Channel Blockers
Cephalosporins
Decongestant/Anticholinergic Combinations
Direct Renin Inhibitors Products
Erythromycins
Erythropoiesis Stimulating Agents
Glaucoma Agents
Growth Hormones
Hepatitis C Treatments
Inhaled Corticosteroids
Insulin and Related Agents
Intranasal Corticosteroids
Leukotriene Modifiers
Lipotropics, Non-Statins
Lipotropics, Statin Products
Long-Acting Beta Agonist Inhalers
Long-Acting Narcotics
Multiple Sclerosis Agents
NSAIDs and COX-2 Inhibitors
Ophthalmic Allergy Agents
Ophthalmic Anti-inflammatory Agents
Oral Antifungals
Oral Fluoroquinolones
Osteoporosis Agents
Pancreatic Enzymes
Platelet Aggregation Inhibitors
Proton Pump Inhibitors
Pulmonary Antihypertensive Agents
Sedative Hypnotics
Short-Acting Beta Agonist Inhalers
Skeletal Muscle Relaxants
Stimulants and Related Agents
Tetracyclines
Topical Analgesics and Anesthetics
Topical Antifungals
Topical Corticosteroids
Triptans
Ulcerative Colitis/Crohn's Disease Agents

## Enhancement of EPSDT Pharmacy Benefit

Another enhancement to the SmartPA program is the automation of prior authorizations for prescriptions exceeding the monthly five prescription limit including the two brand name prescription limit as part of the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program for beneficiaries under the age 21 for certain diagnoses. The Smart PA system will look for a qualifying medical claim as determined by the ICD-9 code on any claim within the last 395 days. If a claim is found, the SmartPA will override the prescription limits at the pharmacy POS, if all applicable clinical and/or PDL criteria are met. Qualifying diagnoses include:

Asthma
Cancer
Cardiac Arrhythmias
Cardiac Valve Disease
Cardiovascular Disease
Crohn's Disease
Cystic Fibrosis
Diabetes
Failure to Thrive
Hemodynamically Significant Congenital Heart Disease
Irritable Bowel Syndrome
Renovascular Disease
Rheumatic Disease
Seizure Disorder
Sickle Cell Disease
Transplant
Ulcerative Colitis

## SmartPA™



## General Information

Additionally, DOM will allow for electronic billing of a 72-hour emergency supply of medications. This process is to be used when a medication is needed without delay and prior authorization is unavailable: such as after hours, holidays, and if the prescriber is unavailable. For details on the 72 hour emergency prescription billing, please see the Pharmacy Services webpage at <http://www.medicaid.ms.gov>.

## Contact Information

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