

PROVIDER BULLETIN

PROVIDER INFORMATION



December 17, 2015

New Drug-Related Prior Authorization Criteria for Ophthalmic Immunomodulators

Effective April 1, 2016, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota (Blue Cross) will require prior authorization for Ophthalmic Immunomodulators, including cyclosporine ophthalmic emulsion (Restasis®) and, pending FDA approval, lifitegrast (brand name not yet known).

As stewards of healthcare expenditures for our subscribers, we are charged with ensuring the highest quality, evidence based care for our members. One method for doing so is through the prior authorization process. The primary purpose is to ensure that evidence based care is provided to our members, driving quality, safety, and affordability.

The intent of the Ophthalmic Immunomodulators prior authorization (PA) program is to ensure appropriate selection of patients for treatment according to product labeling and/or clinical studies and/or guidelines. The PA defines appropriate use as treatment for patients who have tear production presumed to be suppressed due to ocular inflammation associated with keratoconjunctivitis sicca (e.g., Sjögren's Syndrome), and who have previously tried or are currently using aqueous enhancements. The program will also approve members who have another FDA labeled indication for the requested agent. The program will not approve those with contraindication(s) to the requested agent. Requests will be reviewed when patient-specific documentation has been provided.

Pharmacy Prior Authorization Program	Drug Name
Ophthalmic Immunomodulators PA	cyclosporine ophthalmic emulsion (Restasis®)
	lifitegrast (brand name not yet known)

Products impacted

This PA program applies to commercial lines of business **and** the following Minnesota Health Care Programs:

- Blue Advantage Prepaid Medical Assistance Program (PMAP)
- Minnesota Senior Care Plus (MSC+)
- MinnesotaCare

New PA criteria will be posted by February 1, 2016, and can be accessed using the Blue Cross provider link.

- Access providers.bluecrossmn.com
- Under Tools And Resources, select Medical policy, then acknowledge the Acceptance statement
- Select Utilization Management
- Select Pharmacy Utilization Management

Questions?

If you have questions, please contact provider services at (651) 662-5200 or 1-800-262-0820.