



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Division of Medical Assistance
600 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111

MassHealth
Community Health Center Bulletin 41
July 1999

TO: Community Health Centers Participating in MassHealth
FROM: Mark E. Reynolds, Acting Commissioner
RE: **Prior Authorization for Enbrel, Herceptin, and Remicade**

Background

As an ongoing part of the management of the pharmacy program, three drugs—Enbrel, Herceptin, and Remicade—have been added to those that must be dispensed in a prescriber's office. These drugs also require prior authorization.

This bulletin also details the procedures for obtaining prior authorization for and dispensing any drug on the following list.

**Injectable or
Infusable
Drugs and
Devices**

The Division requires prior authorization for the prescription (or refill) of the following injectable or infusable drugs and devices, which must be dispensed in a provider's office. Use Service Code **X3333** to bill for all drugs on this list.

Enbrel, Herceptin, and Remicade have been added to the list.

Algucerase (Cerelease, Cerezyme)
Alpha-1 proteinase inhibitor (Prolastin)
Dornase alpha inhalation solution (Pulmozyne)
Enbrel
Erythropoietin (Epogen, Procrit)
Filgrastim (Neupogen)
Herceptin
Hyalgan
Immune globulins (Gamastan IM, Gamimune, Gammagard, Gammar IM, Iivegam, Ngammar IV, Polygam, Sandoglobulin, Venoglobulin I)
Recombinant human growth hormones [for example, somatrem (Protopin), somatropin (Humatrope, Nutropin)]
Remicade

***PA Requirements
for Enbrel,
Herceptin, and
Remicade***

Enbrel, Herceptin, and Remicade require prior authorization. The following are guidelines for the appropriate use of each of these drugs.

Enbrel

Enbrel is a new drug that has been approved for the treatment of active rheumatoid arthritis. It may be used in combination with methotrexate.

- Enbrel may be appropriate for patients who have failed or who have not responded to at least one course of therapy with disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs.
- Enbrel should not be used in patients with mild disease or as first-line therapy.

Herceptin

Herceptin is a new drug that has been approved for the treatment of metastatic breast cancer.

- Herceptin should only be used for patients with metastatic breast cancer whose tumors overexpress HER2 protein.

Remicade

Remicade is a new drug that has been approved for the treatment of moderately to severely active Crohn's disease.

- Remicade should only be used to reduce the signs and symptoms in patients who have had an inadequate response to conventional therapy.
- Remicade may also be used in patients with fistulizing Crohn's disease to reduce the number of draining enterocutaneous fistulas.

***Prior-Authorization
Procedures***

You must submit a completed Request for Prior Authorization form as described in Subchapter 5 of your provider manual. Be sure that the request contains the community health center's provider number.

**Prior-Authorization
Procedures**
(cont.)

Submit the request to the Division at the following address.

Prior-Authorization Unit
Division of Medical Assistance
600 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111
Fax: (617) 210-5088

**Claims for
Payment**

You must submit on a claim form no. 9 any claim for drugs and devices dispensed at the community health center. Use Service Code **X3333** to bill for these drugs. The claim must contain the name, strength, and dosage of the drug or device. A copy of the current invoice showing the actual acquisition cost must be attached to the claim form. Claims will be denied if required information is missing.

**Supplies of the
PA Form**

To obtain supplies of the Request for Prior Authorization form, send or fax a written request to the following address or fax number.

Unisys
ATTN: Forms Distribution
P.O. Box 9101
Somerville, MA 02145
Fax: (617) 576-4087

Questions

If you have any questions about the information in this bulletin, please contact the Unisys Provider Services Department at (617) 628-4141 or 1-800-325-5231.
