

RxAmerica Administrative Process

RxAmerica has been the Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) for Midwest Health Plan (Midwest) since January 1, 2007. During the past five months, I have noticed that there have been certain processes of RxAmerica have caused the most problems/concern. I would like to review some of these issues:

Preferred Drug List (PDL)

The PDL is posted on the Midwest Website. The PDL lists preferred drugs, most commonly generic medication but occasionally branded medications, by drug class. Not all drug classes are represented on the PDL. In order to keep the PDL short and concise, dosage forms of the drugs are not listed. As the Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee modifies the PDL, the revised PDL will be posted to the Website.

Formulary

The Formulary is also posted on the Midwest Website. All dosage forms of all Formulary medications are listed in the Formulary. Therefore, the Formulary is an extensive document, over 60 printed pages. As the Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee modifies the Formulary, the revised Formulary will be posted to the Website.

“Please consider formulary alternatives...”

When a FAX message is received that begins “Please consider formulary alternatives....,” Midwest is reminding the prescribing physician about medications that are on the PDL. If you consider the formulary alternatives and still wish to prescribe the original medication, you must submit a Prior Authorization request which should include your reasoning for prescribing the medication.

Step Therapy

Those medications that require Step Therapy are posted on the Midwest Website. The concept of Step Therapy is that if RxAmerica has a claim for Drug 1 within the time frame for the particular Step Therapy edit, then Drug 2 is dispensed without the need of prior authorization. If RxAmerica does not have an appropriately timed claim for Drug 1, you will need to submit a Prior Authorization request for Drug 2.

Prior Authorization Requests (PR)

RxAmerica gives the highest priority to PR submitted via the RxAmerica Website. If a PR is submitted via the Website, the status (approved, denied or in review) of the request can be monitored from the Website. If you desire to submit PR to RxAmerica via the Website, please contact your Provider Services Representative who will arrange for staff orientation.

If there are other issues with the Midwest Pharmacy Program and/or RxAmerica, please let me know. I can be contacted at 313.586.6060 or mtucker@midwesthealthplan.com.