

PROVIDER BULLETIN

PROVIDER INFORMATION



December 13, 2016

New Drug-Related Prior Authorization Criteria for Amitiza® and Linzess®

Effective February 1, 2017, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) will require prior authorization (PA) for Amitiza® (lubiprostone) and Linzess® (linaclotide). The intent of the Amitiza® and Linzess® PA program is to ensure that patients' prescribed therapy meet the selection requirements defined in product labeling and/or clinical guidelines and/or clinical studies. The PA defines appropriate use as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) labeled indication or as supported by guidelines and/or clinical evidence.

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

Pharmacy Prior Authorization Program	Drug Name
Amitiza® (lubiprostone), Linzess® (linaclotide) PA	Amitiza®
	Linzess®

Products impacted

This PA program applies to commercial lines of business.

New PA criteria will be posted by January 1, 2017, 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 Programs

CoverMyMeds prior authorization request service

As a reminder, CoverMyMeds (CMM) is a free service to providers which allows quick and easy submission of PA requests. Experience with CMM by other plans has demonstrated marked reductions in physician office call-backs regarding PA requests, after CMM is implemented. PA requests may also continue to be faxed to their review destination external to the CMM portal, as is the current practice.

You may access CMM at www.covermymeds.com. Select Help (top right of the web page) to view FAQs and Support tutorials (3-5 minutes), including live online chat support to help you get started. You will need to open a CMM account to submit requests using the portal.

Questions?

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