



Provider Notice 13-27

Dear Provider:

Effective for dates of service on and after June 1, 2013, based on recommendations by the Pediatric Mental Health Workgroup, the Medicaid Program of the Health Care Authority (agency) will require authorization for alpha-agonists that exceed the agency's dose for eligible clients 17 years of age and younger.

The Pediatric Mental Health Workgroup has established age-based dosing limits for alpha-agonists.

The agency will phase in these dosing requirements over a 3-month time period using the following schedule:

- Beginning June 1, 2013 all alpha-agonists will require authorization for 3 years of age and younger.
- On July 1, 2013 long-acting alpha-agonists exceeding the dose limits will require authorization for 17 years of age and younger.
- On August 1, 2013 short acting alpha-agonists exceeding the dose limits will require authorization for 17 years of age and younger.

Dosing Limitations:

Drug	0 - 3 years of age	4 - 5 years of age	6 - 8 years of age	9 -17 years of age
Catapres® (clonidine)	PA required	0.2 mg	0.3 mg	0.4 mg
Intuniv® (guanfacine SR)	PA required	2mg	3 mg	4 mg
Kapvay® (clonidine SR)	PA required	0.2 mg	0.3 mg	0.4 mg
Tenex® (guanfacine)	PA required	2mg	3 mg	4 mg

As part of the authorization process, prescribers will be required to engage in a phone consultation with an agency-designated mental health specialist from the Second Opinion Network (SON). To receive payment for the phone consultation with SON, use procedure code 99441 on the claim.

Note: A SON representative will contact prescribers to schedule the required phone consultation.

At the time of the authorization request, continuation of therapy will be approved until the SON consultation process is complete. Agency authorization decisions will be based on recommendations to the agency by the SON mental health specialist.

Note: Dispensed As Written (DAW) by an endorsing prescriber does not override the

PA requirement for exceeding the alpha-agonist dose limits.

To view the agency's current list of drugs with limits,

go to: http://www.hca.wa.gov/medicaid/pharmacy/Documents/list_of_drugs_with_limits.pdf

Note: These changes will appear in the next edition of the *Prescription Drug Medicaid Provider Guide* scheduled for publication May 13, 2013.

BC/AL
Provider Publications Team
Medicaid Program
Health Care Authority

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