

Prior Authorization, Pharmacy and Health Case Management Information

The purpose of this information sheet is to provide you with details on how Great-West Life will be assessing and managing your claim through our prior authorization and if applicable, designated pharmacy and health case management programs. Our programs are designed to support your involvement in treatment and achieving a positive health outcome. For this reason it's important for you to know what to expect throughout this process so that you can remain focused on your health.

Prior Authorization

Certain prescription drugs call for a more detailed assessment and management process to help ensure that they represent reasonable treatment. Prior authorization requires that you request approval from Great-West Life for coverage of certain prescription drugs.

In order for your claim to be considered, additional information from you and your physician is needed to help us determine whether:

- there are other medications that may be tried first to treat your medical condition;
- there are lower cost medications available that are considered to be a reasonable treatment for your medical condition; and
- coverage is available for the prescribed drug under other programs.

If approved, the effective date of coverage will be the date coverage was approved by Great-West Life. Requests for coverage prior to the approval date will be considered on an exception basis only.

Pharmacy Information

Some Great-West Life group benefit plans may require you to purchase a drug requiring prior authorization from a pharmacy designated by Great-West Life. If this is the case for your group benefit plan, you may choose from the designated pharmacy(ies) available based on location. If your claim is approved, a health case manager will contact your physician to provide information and, where applicable, provide a form so that your physician can forward your prescription to the designated pharmacy you have selected. By completing this form, you authorize Great-West to communicate your choice of designated pharmacy to your physician, where applicable.

Note: Designated Pharmacy does not apply where prohibited by law.

Health Case Management

Where health case management applies under the terms of your group benefits plan, a health case manager may be assigned to your claim during the prior authorization process and you will be expected to participate in the program.

A health case manager can provide valuable support and assistance and work closely with you and your physician during your treatment plan. This may include:

- working with you and your physician to understand different drug treatment options;
- assisting you in understanding and accessing available support programs such as patient assistance programs and any benefits or programs that may be available to you under your current benefit plan; and
- ongoing communication and follow-up throughout an approved coverage period to help assess the prescribed drug treatment plan.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and your physician.

Send all pages of the completed form to us by mail, fax or email as noted below.

Note: As email is not a secure medium, any person with concerns about their prior authorization form/medical information being intercepted by an unauthorized party is encouraged to submit their form by other means.

Mail to: The Great-West Life Assurance Company
Drug Services
PO Box 6000
Winnipeg MB R3C 3A5

Fax to: The Great-West Life Assurance Company
Fax 1-204-946-7664
Attention: Drug Services

Email to: gwldrug.services@gwl.ca
Attention: Drug Services