



TO: Pharmacy Providers, Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Dental Providers, Physician Assistants, Optometrists, Long Term Care Providers, Clinics, and Hospitals
RE: Expansion of Step Therapy Drug Classes

Effective March 1, 2015, the Department of Social Services (DSS) is expanding Step Therapy Prior Authorization (PA) criteria to include the following drug classes in addition to Proton Pump Inhibitors, Statins and Anti-migraine Agents:

- Acne Agents, Topical
- Cytokine & CAM Antagonists

Beginning March 1, 2015, the Step Therapy PA Request Form must be used to request a PA for any non-preferred drug within the newly added Step Therapy drug classes. The Pharmacy Web PA feature on the www.ctdssmap.com secure Web portal will also allow providers to request PA for drugs subject to Step Therapy.

The Step Therapy PA Request Form requires prescribers to explain in detail why the client cannot be treated with one of the currently preferred agents. The prescriber must indicate which preferred product has been utilized in the past, select a reason for the failure, and supply a specific written clinical explanation for the failure. Documentation of the failure must be maintained in the patient's chart. The allowable reasons that may be indicated on the form are:

- Use of the preferred alternative is contraindicated.

- The patient has experienced significant adverse effects from the preferred alternative and prescriber has completed and attached FDA 3500 MedWatch form which has been filed with the FDA.

- Use of the preferred alternative has resulted in therapeutic failure after the normal course of treatment.

- Pediatric patient (younger than 12 years of age).

Please note: DSS will honor previous authorizations for drugs newly subject to the Step Therapy PA criteria approved prior to March 1, 2015 for dates of service on or after March 1, 2015 up to a period of one year.

The Step Therapy PA Form is available on the www.ctdssmap.com Web site. From the Home page, go to Information → Publications → Forms → Authorization/Certification Forms → Step Therapy PA Form; or to Pharmacy Information → Pharmacy Program Publications → Step Therapy PA Form.

