



To: Pharmacies, Physicians, Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, Oral Surgeons, Optometrists, Dentists, FQHCs, RHCs, Nursing Homes, and Mental Health Providers

RE: Preferred Drug List (PDL) Update

Effective **October 1, 2009**, the Alabama Medicaid Agency will update the Preferred Drug List (PDL) to reflect the recent Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee's recommendations as well as quarterly updates. The updates are listed below:

PDL Additions	PDL Deletions*
Azor -Cardiovascular Health/ Calcium Channel Blockers/Combos	Augmentin XR -Anti-infective Agents/ Penicillins
OTC pyrantel pamoate (ex. Pin-X, Reese) Anti-infective Agents/Anthelmintics	Exelon -Behavioral Health/Alzheimer's Agents
Prandin -Diabetic Agents/Meglitinides	Paxil CR -Behavioral Health/Antidepressants
	Starlix -Diabetic Agents/Meglitinides
	Valtrex -Anti-infective Agents/ Nucleosides and Nucleotides

** Denotes that these brands will no longer be preferred but are still covered by Alabama Medicaid and will require Prior Authorization (PA). Available covered generic equivalents (unless otherwise specified) will remain preferred.*

The PA request form and criteria booklet, as well as a link for a PA request form that can be completed and submitted electronically online, can be found on the Agency's website at www.medicaid.alabama.gov and should be utilized by the prescribing physician or the dispensing pharmacy when requesting a PA. Providers are to mail or fax hard copy PA requests to:

**Health Information Designs (HID)
Medicaid Pharmacy Administrative Services
P. O. Box 3210 Auburn, AL 36832-3210
Fax: 1-800-748-0116
Phone: 1-800-748-0130**

Incomplete PA requests or those failing to meet Medicaid criteria will be denied. If the prescribing physician believes medical justification should be considered, the physician must document this on the form or submit a written letter of medical justification along with the prior authorization form to HID. Additional information may be requested. Staff physicians will review this information.

Policy questions concerning this provider notice should be directed to the Pharmacy Program at (334) 242-5050. Questions regarding prior authorization procedures should be directed to the HID help desk at 1-800-748-0130.

September 11, 2009