



What you should know about

# PREAUTHORIZATION



Preauthorization provides safe, high-quality and cost-effective pharmacy care.



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## OVERVIEW

Your employer and health plan are working together to find better ways to effectively manage prescription drug costs. They realize how important it is to offer safe, high-quality and affordable health care options. With the cost of prescription drugs increasing faster than any other health care expense, your health plan's preauthorization program is an effective way to encourage appropriate drug use and to reduce drug benefit costs for everyone.

### What is preauthorization?

A preauthorization program ensures you are taking the appropriate medication. This means that some medications need your health plan's approval before they will be approved at the pharmacy. There are some medications that have the potential for overuse and or misuse. Additionally, there may be an equally effective and lower cost alternative to your medication.

Preauthorization is based on FDA guidelines, clinical evidence and research to ensure that you are taking the most appropriate medication. Your health plan's physicians and pharmacists determine what appropriate and/or lower-cost drugs are available as alternative medications.



*Preauthorization provides safe and high-quality pharmacy care.*

### Don't more expensive drugs work better?

Not necessarily. A drug is not better just because it costs more. For example, a brand-name drug may have a less-expensive generic or brand-name alternative with similar active ingredients and dosages. Both generic drugs and brand-name drugs are equally safe and effective. They both must be tested and approved by the FDA before they can be sold.

### How does preauthorization affect me?

If you are currently taking a drug that your health plan includes in their preauthorization program, your prescription will no longer be covered at the pharmacy. Please contact your physician to discuss what medication options are best for you based on your current medical condition and medical history. If your physician decides that you should continue taking this medication, then your physician must submit a preauthorization request form to your health plan for approval.

*Preauthorization encourages appropriate drug use and reduces costs for everyone.*

Remember, it is always important to follow your physician's instructions when taking prescription medications. You make the best decisions when you work together with your physician.

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