

What is Prior Authorization?

Have you ever gotten to the pharmacy to fill a prescription and are told that prior authorization is required before your medication can be dispensed? We want to help you understand what this means. Prior authorization is an extra step that is necessary before you are able to fill some medications. There are important reasons this additional information may be required.

What is prior authorization?

Prior authorization is a routine screening process necessary for certain medications before a pharmacist can dispense your medication. If you are told you need prior authorization, it means your pharmacist needs more clinical information from your doctor before filling your prescription.

Why is it necessary?

This extra screening protects you by making sure the medication prescribed to you is safe for you and prescribed at the right dosage. Prior authorization helps you avoid taking a medication which could have adverse effects on your health. It also reduces costs associated with inappropriate medication use.

Prior authorization may be required for the following:

- Brand-name medications that have a generic equivalent
- Medications with age or gender limitations
- Medications prescribed for a quantity exceeding normal limits
- Prescription drugs specified by the Department of Defense

What happens if my prescription needs prior authorization?

Your pharmacist will request prior authorization from your doctor. Only your doctor can submit this information.

For a general list of prescription drugs covered under your TRICARE pharmacy benefit and for drugs requiring prior authorization or with quantity limits, visit www.tricare.mil/pharmacyformulary. If you do not have internet access, call **1-877-363-1303** to ask about a specific drug.

