



Diabetes Type II Current Guidelines Webinar

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Where can providers find the American Diabetes Association (ADA), American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE) Guidelines and the Alliance Formulary?**

Providers can access these guidelines online. The websites are listed in the Resources section below.

- 2. If a provider cannot log into the Alliance Provider Portal. What can they do to submit a Prior Authorization?**

Prior Authorization can also be sent via Fax to (831) 430-5851.

When problems persist with the Provider Portal, please contact Provider Relations at (800) 700-3874 ext. 5504.

- 3. Can members self-refer to the Alliance Care Management program?**

Yes. Members can self-refer to participate in the Care Management programs by calling (800) 700-3874 ext. 5512.

- 4. A provider has a member whose A1C is high and the member is currently only receiving metformin. The provider wants to add a GLP1 Agonist or another medication that requires Prior Authorization however; the provider received a denial based on metformin non-compliance. What does this mean?**

Per Alliance Prior Authorization, a member must be on metformin for at least 3 months with compliance prior to adding another medication. Often times the member data shows they have been noncompliant per their medication history. The Alliance wants the provider to address non-compliance prior to adding another drug to the regimen.

- 5. A member has been on Alogliptin and Trulicity for years, but now the Alliance is denying the authorization. Why?**

Due to an overlapping mechanism of action of DPP-4 Inhibitor and GLP1-agonist, current guidelines do not support these medications to be taken in combination with one another. Studies have not shown the benefit of this combination which is why the Alliance is now denying the authorization.

6. Why are Lantus and Humalog prescriptions being denied for members who have already been taking these medications?

Biosimilars are now available for both products and an authorized generic is also available for Humalog which is why they are being denied. Basaglar is a biosimilar to Lantus and Admelog is Humalog's biosimilar. A biosimilar is a biological medicine highly similar to another already approved biological medicine (the 'reference medicine'). Biosimilars are approved according to the same standards of pharmaceutical quality, safety and efficacy that apply to all biological medicines. Congress, through the Biologics Price Competition and Innovation Act (BPCI Act) of 2009, created an abbreviated licensure pathway for biological products that are demonstrated to be biosimilar to or interchangeable with an FDA-approved biological product. This pathway was established as a way to provide more treatment options, increase access to lifesaving medications, and potentially lower health care costs through competition.

7. What test strips are on the Alliance Formulary and what does Pharmacy mean by "quantity limit"?

OneTouch Verio Test Strips is on the Alliance Formulary and does not require Prior Authorization for up to #100 Test Strips per month. If a member needs a higher quantity, the provider is expected to submit a Prior Authorization Form stating why the member needs more Test Strips. More Test Strips are generally approved if the member is on Insulin or has gestational diabetes.

8. If there is an Alliance member who would benefit from a medication review, can the Alliance Pharmacy Department assist?

Yes. Providers can request a consult with an Alliance pharmacist to review a member's medication regimen along with chart notes and medication fill history. Providers can call the Pharmacy Department at (831) 430-5507 and request to speak to a pharmacist. The Pharmacy Department also works closely with the Case Management team to ensure the member has access to all available resources.

9. A provider prescribes metformin as first-line in most of their patients, but the majority of their patients cannot tolerate the gastrointestinal (GI) side effects. How can they improve tolerability?

Metformin is associated with a significant amount of GI side effects. In most cases these symptoms are self-limiting or can be achieved by instituting a metformin 'holiday'. After a period of non-use, metformin may be successfully resumed at the same or a lower dose with a slow titration of the extended-release formulation (Glucophage XR). Tolerability also increases if medication is taken with the largest meal of the day. Extended-release formulation is better tolerated than immediate-release formulation.

Resources

ADA Website: https://care.diabetesjournals.org/content/42/Supplement_1

AACE Guidelines: <https://www.aace.com/disease-state-resources/diabetes/clinical-practice-guidelines-treatment-algorithms>

Care Management Services: www.ccah-alliance.org/case_management.html

Care Management Referral Form: http://www.ccah-alliance.org/pdfs/405-F-CM-Referral-V1_Fillable.pdf

Alliance Formulary, Prior Authorization Form and Criteria, and Quick Reference guide for Diabetes: visit <http://www.ccah-alliance.org/pharmacy.html>