

September 9th, 2021

COM-2021-045

Dear provider of healthcare-related services,

We all have important roles in the front lines of the 2019 coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic that we are facing. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, PharmPix is making every possible effort to continue to provide our essential services to assure the use of appropriate medications by the appropriate patients at the right moment, while also caring for the safety of our employees, their families, and the community in general.

Currently, remdesivir is the only Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved drug for the treatment of COVID-19. However, it is known that both in the United States and in Puerto Rico, the prescription of ivermectin has increased. This pattern is probably a result of publications suggesting the possible effectiveness of this drug for the prevention or treatment of COVID-19. There is insufficient evidence for the NIH Covid-19 Treatment Panel to recommend either for or against the use of ivermectin for the treatment of COVID-19. Results from adequately powered, well-designed, and well-conducted clinical trials are needed to provide more specific, evidence-based guidance on the role of ivermectin in the treatment of COVID-19.

The prescription of ivermectin for the prevention or treatment of COVID-19 in the ambulatory setting is not yet authorized by the FDA and raises various concerns:

- Safety risks, while the efficacy has not been confirmed.
- Shortages that may negatively impact members who need this medication for an FDA-approved indication (e.g., onchocerciasis, strongyloidiasis, or scabies).

To better manage the utilization of these medications, while providing access to patients who need this medication and mitigating a potential drug shortage, a prior authorization (PA) has been implemented for ivermectin. It is important to note that:

- This PA will confirm diagnosis and dose to make sure there is a proper use of the medication.
- The PA criteria is subject to change as new information becomes available.

This policy only applies to our members or groups for which PharmPix manages the pharmacy benefit or as stipulated by our clients.

The situation with the COVID-19 pandemic is dynamic and constantly changing. We strongly encourage the frequent revision of updated information provided by the FDA, the Centers for Disease and Control Prevention (CDC), and the World Health Organization (WHO), to assure that your practices are consistent with the most updated information.



PharmPix is committed to the health and wellness of our members, and to support you as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve. It is our priority to offer high-quality services and support practices for health promotion and diseases prevention. If you have any questions or wish to have more information regarding this document, you can call us at 787-522-5252, extension 220.

Kind regards,

Clinical Department



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Expires 12/01/2022