April 21, 2022

**Training available: Therapeutic Radiation Prior Authorization program**

Training is available on May 18, 2022, to help you navigate the new notification/prior authorization request process for outpatient radiation oncology therapies.

This new notification/prior authorization process will begin June 7, 2022, when Optum® will start managing online requests for outpatient radiation oncology therapies. This applies to UnitedHealthcare ® Medicare Advantage, UnitedHealthcare West Medicare Advantage and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan (Dual Special Needs Plan) health plans.

**Training session**The 1-hour training session on May 18, 2022, will cover:

* Prior authorization request process
* Online tool for submitting notification/prior authorization requests
o  The online tool will be open on June 1, 2022, for prior authorization requests with a start date of June 7, 2022, or later

**Register today**Use the following link to register for the upcoming session. After you register, you’ll receive a confirmation email with an option to add the training session to your calendar.

May 18, 2022
12 p.m. CT

April 21, 2022

**Commercial plans: Coverage change for Dexilant**

Effective **May 1, 2022**, Dexilant®, a proton pump inhibitor (PPI), will be excluded from coverage for UnitedHealthcare commercial pharmacy plans.

Alternatives, such as pantoprazole (generic Protonix®) and omeprazole (generic Prilosec®) will remain covered in Tier 1, and rabeprazole (generic Aciphex®) will remain covered in Tier 2. Over-the-counter (OTC) options, including Nexium®24 HR, Prevacid® 24, Prilosec OTC, and Zegerid® OTC, are available without a prescription.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **PPIs** | **Current coverage** | **New coverage as of May 1, 2022** |
| Dexilant | Tier 3 | Excluded |
| omeprazole | Tier 1 | No change |
| pantoprazole | Tier 1 | No change |
| rabeprazole | Tier 2 | No change |

**What this means for you**Dexilant cannot be automatically substituted at the pharmacy, so if you have a patient taking Dexilant, you’ll need to provide them with a new prescription for a covered alternative or suggest an OTC option if you choose to continue PPI therapy. If a member continues taking medications that are no longer covered, they may be responsible for the full prescription cost.

**Use of PPIs**It may be beneficial for members who have been taking PPIs for longer than the recommended duration of 4 weeks to be assessed for appropriateness of continued use. To help with your assessment, we’ve created [**guidance around the use of PPIs**open\_in\_new](https://www.uhcprovider.com/content/dam/provider/docs/public/resources/pharmacy/PPI-Guidance.pdf) based on recommendations from the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the American Gastroenterology Association.

**Questions?**Email us at **pharmacy\_news@uhc.com**.