

September 4, 2008

Montana Healthcare Programs Notice

Physicians, Mid-Level Practitioners, and Pharmacy Providers

SmartPA[®] Prior Authorization for Marinol[®]

Marinol[®] (dronabinol) is a synthetic version of a naturally occurring compound known as delta-9-THC. Delta-9-THC stimulates appetite and reduces nausea and vomiting by binding to special receptors found in the nervous system.

Marinol[®] was approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat nausea and vomiting associated with cancer chemotherapy and radiation therapy in patients who have failed to respond adequately to conventional treatments.

The FDA also approved Marinol[®] to treat appetite loss associated with weight loss in people with AIDS. Health care professionals may prescribe Marinol[®] to help stimulate an HIV/AIDS patient's appetite so he or she will want to eat again.

Approval Criteria

Beginning October 6, 2008, Marinol[®] will be authorized for its FDA-approved indications:

- The treatment of anorexia associated with weight loss in patients with acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) or cancer and unresponsive to Megace[®] (megestrol).
- The prophylaxis of chemotherapy-induced or radiation therapy-induced nausea and vomiting unresponsive to ondansetron.

If the claim denies for prior authorization and the prescriber or pharmacist wants to pursue obtaining a prior authorization, the prescriber or pharmacy may submit requests by mail, telephone, or fax to:

Drug Prior Authorization Unit
Mountain Pacific Quality Health Foundation
3404 Cooney Drive
Helena, MT 59602
(406) 443-6002 or (800) 395-7961 (phone)
(406) 443-7014 or (800) 294-1350 (fax)

Any questions regarding this notice can be directed to Wendy Blackwood at (406) 444-2738 or the Medicaid Drug Prior Authorization Unit.

Contact Information

For claims questions or additional information, contact Provider Relations:

Provider Relations toll-free in- and out-of-state: 1-800-624-3958

Helena: (406) 442-1837

E-mail: MTPRHelpdesk@ACS-inc.com

Visit the Provider Information website:

<http://www.mtmedicaid.org>