



Division of Medical Services
Medicaid Pharmacy Program

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March 23, 2023

RE: Leukotriene antagonists (montelukast) update

Prescribers and pharmacists,

During the Arkansas Medicaid DUR/DRC Board meeting on January 18, 2023, the Board approved point-of-sale edits for montelukast. The expected date for implementation has been postponed until April 1, 2023. On that date and going forward, the following criteria will be used when a pharmacy claim is submitted at point-of-sale.

POINT-OF-SALE EDITS

- TD edit for other LTRA if >25% of the days' supply of the claim in history remains
- Age edits
 - Montelukast 10 mg tablet— ≥ 15 years
 - Montelukast 4 & 5 mg chew tablets— 24 months to 16 years
 - Montelukast 4 mg granule— ≥ 6 months to < 24 months

Currently, montelukast will deny for a therapeutic duplication with another leukotriene receptor antagonist including other montelukast strengths.

Claims will process at point-of-sale if a recipient meets ANY of the following:

Criterion 1:

- Diagnosis of asthma in the previous 2 years

OR

- AR Medicaid pharmacy claim for any of the following in the previous 186 days:
 - Inhaled corticosteroid (ICS)
 - Inhaled long-acting beta2 agonist (LABA)
 - Inhaled short-acting beta2 agonist (SABA)
 - Inhaled ICS/LABA

Criterion 2:

- Diagnosis of allergic rhinitis in the previous 2 years

OR

- AR Medicaid pharmacy claim for any of the following within the previous 60 days:
 - ≥ 1 claim for an inhaled nasal steroid
 - ≥ 1 claim for a first or second-generation antihistamine
 - ≥ 1 claim for azelastine nasal spray or ipratropium nasal spray

Criterion 3:

- Diagnosis of Chronic Idiopathic Urticaria in the previous 2 years

If the beneficiary meets one of the three criteria, a prior authorization will not be required. If the beneficiary does not meet one of the three criteria, the prescriber will need to submit a PA request.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Neuhofer, Pharm.D.
DMS Assistant Director/Pharmacy Director