



### **Prior Authorization (P.A.)- What You Need To Know**

**What is a Prior Authorization (P.A.)?** A Prior Authorization (P.A.) is a step implemented by your insurance plan, which requires your physician to prove medical necessity of a non-formulary, or quantity restricted medication in the strength and quantity written by the doctor, and that no other formulary medication(s) will work for you.

#### **What steps are involved with a Prior Authorization (P.A.)?**

- Cave City Pharmacy will fax a notification to your physician to let him/her know that your insurance requires a Prior Authorization (P.A.).
- Your physician will complete the proper Prior Authorization (P.A.) forms and turn it into your insurance.
- Once the insurance plan receives the Prior Authorization (P.A.) from the physician, the insurance's P.A. department will review the documentation.
  - If the Prior Authorization (P.A.) meets the criteria, it is approved for one year or less depending on the medication.
  - If the Prior Authorization (P.A.) does not meet the criteria, it is denied.

#### **Important Notes about a Prior Authorization (P.A.):**

- The insurance company only notifies the doctor and the patient of their decision when approving or denying the Prior Authorization (P.A.). If you have any questions, please consult your physician or insurance company first, then follow up with Cave City Pharmacy.
- A Prior Authorization (P.A.) can take between 2 and 7 business days depending on the physician and insurance, please follow up with your physician with any questions regarding the timeline of your Prior Authorization (P.A.).
- If your medication was covered last time but requires a Prior Authorization (P.A.) this time, it can mean any of the following:
  - Your insurance's formulary may have changed.
  - An existing P.A. has expired and must be renewed by your physician.
  - Your plan may have allowed a "transitional fill" to give the physician adequate time to begin a P.A. or select an alternative medication.
- If your Prior Authorization (P.A.) was denied, you can precede with any of the following:
  - Appeal the decision through your insurance company.
  - Consult with your physician to select a formulary medication for you.
  - Pay the cash price for the medication.