Executive Summary

Purpose: The MO HealthNet Pharmacy Program will implement a state-specific preferred drug list.

Why Issue Selected: The sympatholytic agents are indicated for various functions for example, treatment of hypertension, anxiety, panic disorder, post traumatic stress disorder and withdrawal symptoms from opioids. The oral, centrally-acting, alpha-2 adrenergic receptor agonists include clonidine and guanfacine. Methyldopa continues to be used to treat hypertension in pregnant women. A diuretic, usually hydrochlorothiazide or chlorthalidone may be combined with clonidine or methyldopa. The sympatholytics are typically part of a multiple antihypertensive drug regimen for participants who have not reached their target blood pressure. Clonidine is also available in a transdermal formulation for the treatment of hypertension.

Total program savings for the PDL classes will be regularly reviewed.

Program-Specific Information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preferred Agents</th>
<th>Non-Preferred Agents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clonidine Patch</td>
<td>Catapres® Tabs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clonidine Tabs</td>
<td>Catapres-TTS® Patch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guanfacine</td>
<td>Lucemyra®</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methyldopa</td>
<td>Methyldopa/HCTZ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Type of Criteria: ☒ Increased risk of ADE  ☒ Preferred Drug List

Data Sources: ☐ Only Administrative Databases  ☒ Databases + Prescriber-Supplied

Setting & Population

- Drug class for review: Sympatholytics
- Age range: All appropriate MO HealthNet participants
Approval Criteria

- Failure to achieve desired therapeutic outcomes with trial on 3 or more preferred agents:
  - Documented trial period for preferred agents OR
  - Documented ADE/ADR to preferred agents
- For Lucemyra:
  - Documented diagnosis of opioid withdrawal AND
  - Documented trial period of clonidine oral OR patch

Denial Criteria

- Lack of adequate trial on required preferred agents
- Therapy will be denied if all approval criteria are not met

Required Documentation

Laboratory Results:  
MedWatch Form:  
Progress Notes:  
Other:  

Disposition of Edit

Denial: Exception Code “0160” (Preferred Drug List)
Rule Type: PDL

Default Approval Period

1 year

References

- USPDI, Micromedex; 2021.
- Facts and Comparisons eAnswers (online); 2021 Clinical Drug Information, LLC.