

“P” is for Pharmacy and ...

Prenatal Vitamins

The Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) highlighted the importance of prenatal vitamins in a recent [letter](#) to SoonerCare providers.

In 2017, only 61 percent of SoonerCare members received a prescribed prenatal vitamin while pregnant. That number falls well short of the recent March of Dimes [survey](#) indicating 97 percent of women nationally received a prenatal vitamin or multivitamin during their current or last pregnancy. The March of Dimes survey also points to the importance of health care providers as the primary source of pregnancy education. The survey reported 92 percent of women taking prenatal vitamins were acting upon a specific recommendation from their health care provider.

SoonerCare providers are uniquely positioned to have a significant positive impact on prenatal care for our members! A current list of prenatal vitamins available without prior authorization is available at <http://www.okhca.org/rx>. These preferred vitamins may require prescription but do not require a copay.

Preeclampsia

May is National Preeclampsia Awareness Month. The Preeclampsia Foundation has provided free resources for patients [at risk](#) for preeclampsia and for those who have [already experienced](#) preeclampsia.

The United States Preventive Services Task Force [recommends](#) use of low-dose (81 mg) aspirin, after 12 weeks gestation, for patients at high risk of developing preeclampsia. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists offers complete treatment and prevention [guidelines](#) on its website.

Past-date Insulin

A recent [report](#) from the Journal of the American Pharmacists Association studied diabetic patients insured through Medicaid in four states. They found 81 percent of patients receiving insulin glargine (Lantus[®], Basaglar[®], and Tuojeo[®]) continued to use their insulin beyond the recommended 28-day limit.

Most patients who were interviewed reported they were unaware of the 28-day limit. Those who were aware of the limit received the information from either a pharmacist or a diabetes educator.

SoonerCare encourages local pharmacists to make use of patient counseling opportunities to improve patient knowledge and medication adherence rates.

Prior Authorizations

Each month SoonerCare receives more than 7,300 petitions for medication prior authorization (PAs), with more than 99 percent being completed in 24 hours or less. SoonerCare has taken and continues to take steps to expedite and simplify the process for providers.

Whenever possible, authorizations are completed automatically, without submission of the PA form ([PHARM-04](#)). If paid claims do not support an automated decision, the following steps can help providers expedite the process:

- Use form PHARM-04 when submitting requests.

- Be sure all sections are complete. (Many software platforms do not interface well the OHCA system, and multiple fields may be left incomplete upon submission.)
- Provide only the requested information.*
- If trial medications are listed, include dates and doses when known. (Please note, samples do not meet criteria for medication trials with few exceptions.)

Providers can access the [PA criteria for each medication class](#) on the OHCA public site. Some medications have their own specific form (in place of PHARM-04). You can download these forms at <http://www.okhca.org/forms>.

Providers are encouraged to call the Pharmacy Help Desk at 800-522-0114, option 4, if they have not received a decision within 24 hours of PA submission or if they have any questions.

*Messages with additional questions are sent to providers when specific information is needed. Office notes and/or patient charts are not required and may slow the process.