

NYS Workers' Compensation Drug Formulary Prior Authorization Portal Roll-out

On August 2, 2019 the New York State Workers' Compensation Board issued an update notice regarding its planned drug formulary prior authorization portal. As a reminder, the Workers' Compensation Board has been in the process of implementing a formulary for an extended period of time. The purpose of this formulary is to provide a clearly defined set of parameters for which drugs will and will not require prior authorization when prescribed.

The August 2nd update provided further information regarding the process for usage of the system itself. The board envisions the process working as follows:

- A medical provider seeking to deviate from the established drug formulary initiates an electronic prior authorization request (also known as a variance) through the portal.
- This request for prior authorization will be transmitted electronically to the first designated level of contact. This contact will be your pharmacy benefit manager (NCA's current preferred pharmacy benefit manager is Equian).
- If the request is denied by the first level of contact the provider may electronically request review from a second designated level of contact, an impartial physician representing the self-inured. NCAComp will arrange for this representative on behalf of our clients.
- If this second request is denied the provider may electronically submit a request for review by the Workers' Compensation Board's Medical Director's Office.

Additionally, the Workers' Compensation Board envisions this portal coming online in phases. The proposed phases are:

- Prior to September 1, 2019 carriers and third party administrators will be given access to the portal to assign their contact levels.
- The portal will then be available for live testing of the above described electronic prior authorization requests prior to October 1, 2019.
- The portal is expected to be fully tested and operational prior to December 5, 2019. This is the effective date of the drug formulary itself.

If you have any questions about how this change will impact your specific claims, please contact your NCAComp account manager or Erin Jordan at ejordan@ncacomp.com or 716-362-6493 for a detailed analysis.