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Provider Alert

To: All Sharp Health Plan-contracted independent providers
Attn: Independent providers and provider office staff
From: Sharp Health Plan
Date: Friday, June 19, 2020
Subject: Expiration Dates for Prior Authorization Extensions Due to COVID-19

Dear Provider Partner:

Thank you for your continued cooperation and partnership during this unprecedented time. This notice is to inform you of the expiration dates established for outpatient pharmacy prior authorization extensions due to COVID-19, and surgeries and procedures that were authorized and approved but postponed due to COVID-19.

- **Outpatient Pharmacy Prior Authorizations — Automatic 90-day Extensions Expire June 23**
California's shelter-in-place order that was enacted in March 2020 may have made it more challenging for members to see prescribers — either because of decreased availability of appointments or personal concern over exposure. In order to prevent gaps in therapy for members on maintenance medications, Sharp Health Plan set all outpatient pharmacy prior authorizations (PA) from March 23 through June 30 to be automatically extended 90 days past the original expiration date. As public spaces gradually reopen, automatic extensions for outpatient pharmacy PAs will expire June 23.
- **Pre-Authorized Surgeries and Procedures — FOR INDEPENDENT PROVIDERS ONLY**
For surgeries and procedures that were previously authorized and approved but subsequently postponed due to COVID-19, Sharp Health Plan is extending those authorizations and approvals. Extensions will enable surgeries and procedures to be scheduled and performed without having to be re-authorized. Most extensions will be valid for at least 90 days or until backlogs are cleared. Call Customer Care at 1-800-359-2002 to request an extension.

We are continuing to monitor and follow guidance from all state and federal agencies and local public health officials. We will continue to update our COVID-19 resource center online as we receive new information and guidance. Please visit sharphealthplan.com/for-providers/covid19 for the latest information.

Sincerely,

Cary B. Shames, DO, CHCQM, FABQURP
Vice President, Chief Medical Officer

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