



Provider Alert

To: Sharp Health Plan Providers and Provider Office Staff
From: Sharp Health Plan
Date: July 22, 2025
Subject: Reminder of Prior Authorization Criteria for Lidocaine 5% patches

Dear Provider Partner:

We have seen an increase in the number of Medicare Advantage prior authorizations and appeals related to the denial of lidocaine 5% patch prescriptions that do not meet the prior authorization criteria.

For your quick reference, below are the prior authorization criteria:

- FDA-approved indication of relief of pain associated with postherpetic neuralgia.
- Medically accepted off-label uses, including pain associated with diabetic neuropathy and pain associated with cancer-related neuropathy (including treatment-related neuropathy).

Lidocaine 5% patches are **not covered** for any other type of pain such as general chronic pain, osteoarthritis, and back pain. Please speak to your patients about other options.

For more information, including the full prior authorization criteria, go to sharphealthplan.com/login and log in or create a Sharp Health Plan online account.

Sincerely,

Sharp Health Plan
Provider Account Management Team
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