

The Gold Standard – An Incentive Program for Prescribers

The Gold Standard Program was launched April 1, 2011, as an incentive program to recognize prescribers who have a high compliance rate (top 3% or higher) with the Alabama Medicaid Agency's Preferred Drug List (PDL). The program shall exempt the number of prior authorizations (PAs) that a prescriber must obtain over a certain time.

How Does a Prescriber Qualify for the Gold Standard Program?

Pharmacy claims data is reviewed quarterly. Prescribers must have three or fewer non-preferred drug claims and more than 220 prescriptions for preferred or over-the-counter (OTC) drugs written during the previous quarter.

How are Prescribers Informed of Gold Standard Status?

Gold Standard letters are distributed to prescribers who qualify for the Gold Standard Program. Acentra Health's Medicaid Pharmacy Specialists also inform prescribers of their Gold Standard status.

How Does the Gold Standard Program Work?

Gold Standard prescribers are exempt from certain PA requirements for a specified time. During that time, most non-preferred prescriptions written by the prescriber will be approved at the pharmacy and will not require a PA request form to be submitted and approved before the prescription can be filled.

How Long is a Prescriber Included in the Gold Standard Program?

Prescribers are exempt for one quarter. Prescribers are re-evaluated each quarter, and once a prescriber has been on the Gold Standard list for three or four quarters, the prescriber is exempt for one year.

Are All Drug Classes Included in the Gold Standard Program?

No, certain drug classes are excluded from the program and will still require a PA. The following drug classes are excluded: anti-infectives, antipsychotics, biological injectables, growth hormone agents, monoclonal antibodies, nutritional products, opioid-dependence agents, proton pump inhibitors, and phosphodiesterase inhibitors.

How Many Prescribers are Included in the Gold Standard Program?

Since the inception of the program, the number of prescribers who meet the Gold Standard criteria has more than doubled. In October 2023, there were 710 prescribers included in the Gold Standard Program.