

## Helping you manage drug costs with prior authorization

Prior authorization (PA) is one of the ways you can contain the costs of claims for high cost drugs and still ensure that your plan members are getting the right drugs at the right time in their treatment course.

Starting in late 2016, we're implementing PA for non-refund group benefits plans that currently do not have a PA program attached to their Pay-Direct Drug (PDD) plan. This is to help keep drug plan costs down, making extended health care more affordable for you and your plan members in the long run. For plan members outside of Quebec, this also means that members will have access to our Preferred provider Network (PPN) for specialty drugs.

### About prior authorization

Our prior authorization program requires that coverage for certain prescription drug therapies are pre-approved based on clinical criteria. Implementing a PA program can help save nearly 2% on drug plan costs. Our program is streamlined to focus on biologics and high-cost specialty drug categories; in 2015, specialty drugs accounted for less than 1% of total claims, but 27% of total drug costs. Since Sun Life began including PA as a standard for new business in December 2012, more than 80% of our groups have implemented PA.

### Impact to plan members

The impact to plan members is expected to be very low as plan members who have been reimbursed for a PA drug within 120 days of the amendment will have their prescriptions grandfathered and do not have to submit those prescriptions through the PA process

### Extra support for plan members and cost-containment strategies

Plans with prior authorization automatically get access to Sun Life's Preferred Pharmacy Network (PPN) for their plan members residing outside of Quebec. Our PPN is designed to reduce claim costs for plan members when shopping for most specialty drugs that require prior authorization at participating pharmacies using a Sun Life Drug card. By filling a prescription at a Sun Life PPN pharmacy, plan members will benefit from potentially reduced claim costs for specialty drugs which in turn help to reduce the impact to future pool charges on the plan.

### Next Steps

A further Focus Update will be delivered in October to announce the implementation date of the amendment to add PA and will include communication materials that you can make available to your members.

### Questions?

Contact your Sun Life Financial group benefits representative.