

Prior authorization (PA) required for fee-for-service coverage of oral ivermectin

Effective immediately, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) requires PA for fee-for-service coverage of **oral ivermectin tablets** of any strength. Ivermectin for treatment or prevention of COVID-19 is not currently approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or authorized by an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). At this time, use of oral ivermectin for COVID-19 should be limited to the clinical trial setting.

As required by federal Medicaid law, OHA will only cover ivermectin for medically accepted indications. A “medically accepted indication” is statutorily defined to mean any use that is approved by the FDA, or an “off-label” use that is supported by the American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information, the U.S. Pharmacopoeia-Drug Information (or a successor publication), or DRUGDEX Information System.

If federal guidance changes, OHA will review policies for ivermectin coverage. OHA supports the use of all FDA-approved and EUA-authorized treatment and prophylaxis for COVID-19, including vaccination, when used consistently with the FDA approval or EUA authorization.

Why is this happening?

Oral ivermectin is a prescription-only product that is not covered or federally funded for use in COVID-19. Ivermectin can be associated with drug interactions and has teratogenic risk in pregnancy. Inappropriate use has also been linked to increases in ivermectin overdoses reported to state Poison Control Centers. Benefit for treatment or prevention of COVID-19 has not been established.

What should you do?

Please request a PA. Send all required information, including all relevant ICD-10 diagnosis codes for primary and comorbid conditions, requested dose, and length of therapy. You can submit PA requests three ways:

1. Call the Oregon Pharmacy Call Center at 888-202-2126;
2. Submit via the secure Provider Web Portal at <https://www.or-medicaid.gov>; or
3. Fax 888-346-0178. Use the form at <https://apps.state.or.us/Forms/Served/he3978.pdf>.

Learn more about evidence for ivermectin. Use for COVID-19 is not compendia-supported at this time.

- IDSA treatment guidelines: <https://www.idsociety.org/practice-guideline/covid-19-guideline-treatment-and-management/>
- WHO living COVID guidelines: <https://app.magicapp.org/#/guideline/nBkO1E/section/LAQX7L>
- CDC Health Advisory: https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2021/pdf/CDC_HAN_449.pdf
- NIH treatment guidelines: <https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/therapies/antiviral-therapy/ivermectin/>
- ASHP Evidence Table: <https://www.ashp.org/-/media/assets/pharmacy-practice/resource-centers/Coronavirus/docs/ASHP-COVID-19-Evidence-Table.pdf>
- Cochrane review: <https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD015017.pub2/full>

Questions?

- **About using the Provider Web Portal:** Contact the Provider Services Unit at dmap.providerservices@dhsoha.state.or.us or call 800-336-6016.
- **About physical health prescriptions for patients in a coordinated care organization (CCO):** Contact the CCO.
- **About EUAs for COVID-19:** Visit the FDA website at <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-legal-regulatory-and-policy-framework/emergency-use-authorization#coviddrugs>
- **About active clinical trials for COVID-19 therapeutics:** Visit www.clinicaltrials.gov