



Byetta (exenatide) Step Edit Policy

Description:

Byetta provides a new mechanism of action in the treatment of Type 2 Diabetes. Byetta mimics incretin, enhancing glucose-dependent insulin secretion; improves glycemic control through acute effects on pancreatic beta-cell responsiveness to glucose and leads to insulin release only in the presence of elevated glucose concentrations; moderates glucagon secretion and lowers serum glucagon concentrations during periods of hyperglycemia and slows gastric emptying and reduces appetite. Byetta is not indicated for first line therapy and use as an option over insulin should not be recommended due to the American Diabetes Association (ADA) 2007 Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes Guidelines emphasizes the addition of basal insulin to metformin is considered the most effective regimen for type 2 diabetics that do not reach A1C goal on oral antidiabetic monotherapy alone.

Purpose:

To ensure appropriate use of Byetta in the treatment of Type 2 Diabetes.

Criteria:

Based on the FDA approved indication, Byetta will be paid as a covered benefit at the 3rd tier when the patient has taken at least 2 of the following agents (or 1 combination agent) within the past 120 days. If the patient does not meet this criteria, the claim will reject 35 (PA required):

1. Sulfonylurea
2. Biguanide
3. Thiazolidinedione
4. Combination Agents

If deemed an emergency situation and the prescriber is NOT available, Prior Authorization of Benefits Center can authorize an override for 72 hours or until the next full business day following a holiday weekend upon request from the dispensing pharmacist.