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Neulasta[®] and Sandostatin[®] LAR benefit update

Effective January 1, 2017, precertification requirements for the drugs Neulasta* and Sandostatin LAR will change for our members.

Neulasta update

Currently, Neulasta is eligible for coverage under the medical benefit and does not require precertification. The following changes are effective January 1, 2017:

- **All requests for Neulasta under the medical benefit will require precertification from AmeriHealth New Jersey.** Requiring precertification for Neulasta helps ensure that our members receive this drug according to the coverage criteria in our medical policy. Please note: members who receive Neulasta from out-of-network or out-of-area providers will be responsible for assuring that precertification is obtained prior to receiving this drug.
- **Neulasta will be added to the Most Cost-Effective Setting Program for group members receiving the drug under the medical benefit.** This allows AmeriHealth New Jersey to review the setting where the member is scheduled to receive treatment, which helps ensure that the setting requested by the provider is both safe and cost-effective. Covered settings for Neulasta include:
 - A physician's office
 - The member's home, where the injection is administered by an in-network home infusion provider

- An ambulatory (freestanding) infusion suite that is not owned by a hospital or health system in our network.

A hospital outpatient facility is also a covered setting for Neulasta, but due to its high cost, it will be approved primarily for members who are receiving an initial dose of Neulasta or for members with a history of treatment-related adverse effects that require monitoring in a hospital.

- **Coverage for Neulasta will now also be available under the pharmacy benefit through FutureScripts®, our pharmacy benefits manager, with no precertification/prior authorization required.** Coverage under the pharmacy plan makes it more convenient for members who want to self-administer Neulasta at home, and may offer cost-savings for members whose pharmacy benefit features a lower copayment, deductible, or coinsurance. In addition, Neulasta does not require precertification or prior authorization when it is obtained under the pharmacy benefit. Customers who do not have pharmacy benefits through AmeriHealth New Jersey may find it helpful to talk to their pharmacy benefits manager to determine whether Neulasta is eligible for coverage under their prescription drug plan. In addition to offering another convenient treatment option to members, this may be an opportunity for additional savings, based on the terms of benefit contracts.

A Letter will be sent to any member currently receiving Neulasta [with AmeriHealth New Jersey pharmacy coverage](#) and [without AmeriHealth New Jersey pharmacy coverage](#) to inform them of these changes. A letter will also be sent to the affected member's [group administrator](#), informing them of these changes.

Sandostatin LAR update

Currently, Sandostatin LAR is eligible for coverage under the medical benefit and does not require precertification. The following changes are effective January 1, 2017:

- All requests for Sandostatin LAR will require precertification from AmeriHealth New Jersey prior to members receiving the drug to ensure the member meets the coverage criteria listed in our medical policy. It is important to note that members who receive Sandostatin LAR from out-of-network or out-of-area providers will be responsible for assuring that precertification is obtained prior to receiving this drug.
- As part of our Most Cost-Effective Setting Program, AmeriHealth New Jersey will also review the setting where group members receive Sandostatin LAR in order to determine if the setting requested by the provider is safe and cost-effective. As a result, members who are currently receiving Sandostatin LAR in a hospital outpatient facility may be approved to receive treatment in a different setting.

We will send [letters](#) to any member who is currently receiving this drug in a hospital outpatient facility to inform them of these changes. [Letters](#) will also be sent to the affected member's group administrator, informing them of these changes.

If you have any further questions, please contact your AmeriHealth New Jersey broker representative.

* All mentions of Neulasta® are inclusive of Neulasta® Onpro®.