

HealthAlliance**MEDICARE**

PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

To establish prior authorization criteria for Chantix use past 12 weeks of therapy, for new starts only.

STATEMENT OF THE POLICY

Health Alliance will establish criteria for Chantix use past the initial 12 weeks of therapy.

PROCEDURES

1. Authorization

- 1.1 Chantix® (varenicline tartrate) will be authorized for an initial 12 weeks of therapy
- 1.2 An additional 12weeks,(for a total of 24weeks of treatment), may be authorized if the patient had stopped smoking during the first 12 weeks of treatment AND had not smoked for at least 7 days at the time of the requested prior authorization.
- 1.3 Patients will be allowed to have a 2 week quantity override at point of sale, if they have not had their provider request a prior authorization for the additional 12weeks of treatment, so their therapy will not be interrupted.

2. References

- 2.1 S Tonstad et al. Effect of maintenance therapy with varenicline on smoking cessation: a randomized controlled trial. JAMA 2006;296:64