

# 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. Chantix® (varenicline tartrate) will be authorized for an initial 12 weeks of therapy**
- 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.**
- 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 12 weeks of treatment, so their therapy will not be interrupted.**

### **Reference:**

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