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## Preferred Drug List Update

During the 2009 legislative session, the State Legislature approved SB 87, which authorizes Utah Medicaid to require a Prior Authorization for non-preferred drugs. The PA requirement went into effect on May 18, 2009. To receive a Non-Preferred Authorization (NPA), the prescriber must provide a detailed explanation of one of the following:

- Trial and failure of at least one preferred agent in the class, including name of the preferred product(s) tried, length of therapy and reason for discontinuation.
- Evidence of a potential drug interaction between current medication and the preferred product(s).
- Evidence of a condition or contraindication that prevents the use of the preferred product(s).
- Objective clinical evidence that a patient is at high risk of adverse events due to a therapeutic interchange.

Requests for NPA should be faxed to (801) 536-0477. Prescribers may provide the information either in the form of chart notes or by filling out the NPA form that can be downloaded from the Pharmacy Services website.

The Medicaid Preferred Drug List continues to expand on a monthly basis. Watch the Medicaid Pharmacy website at <http://health.utah.gov/medicaid/pharmacy> for the most up-to-date information.

## Free Blood Glucose Meters Still Available

Medicaid clients may call 1-877-229-3777 for a Bayer blood glucose meter.

Medicaid clients may call 1-877-535-7467 and refer to Order Number 417-UTM001 to obtain a Lifescan blood glucose meter.

*All preferred drugs and diabetic supplies are NDC specific. Please refer to the Medicaid Pharmacy Website for a list of NDCs.*

**Please Note:** Occasionally, rebate offers from pharmaceutical companies may make coverage of a brand-name drug more cost effective than the generic. Medicaid may, in these instances, require that pharmacies dispense the brand-name drug as the preferred agent.

## P&T Committee Schedule

The P&T Committee meets on the third Thursday of the month in the Cannon Health Building at 7:00 A.M. The schedule of upcoming drug classes for review is as follows:

- July 2009: Hepatitis C Agents
- Aug 2009: Third Generation Cephalosporins
- Sep 2009: Targeted Immunomodulators
- Oct 2009: Second Generation Antihistamines

Continue to watch the P&T Committee website for important updates regarding the P&T Committee schedule, or email Duane Parke, at [dparke@utah.gov](mailto:dparke@utah.gov) for further information.

## Prior Authorization Changes

- Effective July 1, 2009, butalbital-containing compounds for headache treatment will require a PA. Requests will be reviewed by the DUR Board on an individual basis.
- Effective July 15, 2009, Chantix will require a PA. Use will be limited to 24 weeks per calendar year.

Prior Authorization criteria can be obtained through the pharmacy program website at <http://www.health.utah.gov/pharmacy> or by calling Medicaid Prior Authorizations at (801)538-6155 or (800) 662-9651.

## Influenza Medications Available for H1N1

Due to the H1N1 pandemic, Medicaid has temporarily suspended Prior Authorization requirements for Tamiflu and Relenza. The Medicaid Pharmacy Claims system will continue to check the patient's age and pay claims only for the FDA-approved age ranges for these products.

Many providers have called Medicaid to ask how reimbursement for the H1N1 Influenza vaccine will be handled once it becomes available. To date, there is no reliable information on when the vaccine will become available, how many doses will be required, etc. The decision on how to handle coverage will be made expeditiously once this information becomes readily available to Medicaid staff.

## Nicotine Replacement Therapy & Counseling

The DUR Board recently reviewed the smoking cessation class and recommended that Medicaid patients receiving NRT or other generic smoking cessation medications that do not include enrollment in a behavioral program be referred to Utah Quitnet to increase their chances of success in quitting.

Clients should be referred to the website <http://www.utahquitnet.com> or to one of the following phone numbers:

- 1-888-567-TRUTH (8788) - English
- 1-877-629-1585 (Spanish)
- 1-877-777-6534 (TTY)

Educational letters to clients receiving smoking cessation products will also begin in the near future.

## Reimbursement Updates

State budget shortfalls required a reduction in the Medicaid Pharmacy Drug EAC basis of reimbursement. Effective March 1, 2009, the EAC was reduced to Average Wholesale Price (AWP) minus 17%. This change in the EAC was restored to AWP minus 15% beginning July 1, 2009, for fiscal year 2010.

Medicaid is also continuing to aggressively expand use of the Utah MAC. To dispute a Utah MAC price, please fax the most recent invoice of the product being billed to (801) 538-6099. Pharmacies will need to re-submit claims once pricing adjustments are made.

**PAID**

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## Emergency Supplies of PA Drugs

Drugs requiring Prior Authorization are available to patients on an emergency basis 24/7. This is true for both drugs requiring Clinical PA and Non-Preferred Authorization.

The Pharmacy Prior Authorization Department is available Monday - Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays.

If a patient comes to the pharmacy with an emergency need outside of regular business hours, the pharmacy may dispense a 72-hour supply. Medicaid will issue a PA for the 72-hour supply on the next business day. **Further quantity requests will be subject to all PA requirements.**

**Please Note:** If the emergency drug comes in a form that cannot be readily split into a 72-hour supply (i.e. a rescue inhaler or a vial of insulin), Medicaid will work with the pharmacy to accommodate the situation.

## Vitamin D Coverage

Recently, the Utah Medicaid DUR Board met to review osteoporosis drugs. Because available evidence suggests that patients taking bisphosphonates (i.e. Fosamax, Boniva, and Actonel) should also be taking Vitamin D, Utah Medicaid was urged to consider providing coverage for Vitamin D.

Effective July 1, 2009, the following NDCs for Vitamin D will be available to Medicaid Clients:

- 24385-0655-78 Vitamin D 1,000 iu (OTC strength)
- 50111-0990-01 Vitamin D 50,000 iu (Rx strength)

Please also note, clients taking oral bisphosphonates should also be taking calcium supplements. Non-oyster shell calcium tablets have long been a benefit to clients enrolled in the Traditional and Non-Traditional Medicaid plans.

If a Medicaid client taking bisphosphonates expresses concern about being able to afford Vitamin D or Calcium supplements, they may obtain a prescription for these items and have them paid through their Medicaid OTC benefit.

## Is It Safe To Wait?

In April 2008, Utah Medicaid was one of 20 states awarded a grant to divert Medicaid patients away from the emergency room for non-emergent care. This project focuses on educating Medicaid clients about the appropriate use of the emergency room. The project team poses the following questions to clients: Is it safe to wait? Is it safe to wait for an appointment with my doctor in a day or two? Is it safe to wait to be seen the same day at an urgent care / after hours clinic?

Through a series of educational efforts and interventions, Medicaid clients are informed about all of their healthcare choices including the importance of developing a relationship with a PCP. The project team also provides clients with information about urgent care providers available in their area. Preliminary data shows that many clients are unaware of the location of, or the services available from, an urgent care clinic.

If clients continue to use the emergency room for care that could be provided at a lower cost facility, they may be enrolled into the Care Coordination and Restriction program where they will be assigned a single PCP and pharmacy. For more information about the grant activities, please visit our website at <http://health.utah.gov/safetowait/>.



## **Medicaid Communication eSources: Website**

The Medicaid Pharmacy Services website is available 24/7 for policy information. It contains information about prior authorization criteria, the DUR Board, Amber Sheets, Medicaid Pharmacy policy manuals, and the latest news about Medicaid pharmacy. For more information, log on to <http://health.utah.gov/medicaid/pharmacy>

## **ePocrates**

Medicaid will be providing information on the Preferred Drug List, Prior Authorizations, and other pharmacy benefit information through ePocrates. **All three Medicaid programs now have pharmacy benefit information available!** Visit <http://www.epocrates.com> for further information.