



State of Louisiana
Department of Health and Hospitals
Bureau of Health Services Financing

December 16, 2011

Dear Prescribing Practitioner:

RE: PDL # 10-02

Attached is the complete, most current listing of drugs on the Medicaid Prior Authorization (PA) Process' Preferred Drug List (PDL) "**10-02.**" The listing includes preferred drugs and those drugs requiring prior authorization. **This list will be effective January 1, 2012.**

The PA process, in accordance with the program's "Continuity of Care" policy, does not impact original prescriptions (or refills) issued by a prescribing practitioner prior to effective PA dates of drugs as they are added to the PA process *as long as they are within the 5 refills and 6-month program limits*. An educational alert will notify the pharmacist that prescriptions (and their refills) will require a new prescription and prior authorization, if the prescription life exceeds six months or the refill exceeds the 5 refill limit. The educational alert will state, "NEW RX WILL REQUIRE PA AFTER (DATE)."

Prescriptions indicating emergency situations shall be dispensed in a MINIMUM quantity of a three (3) day supply. Refills for the dispensing of the non-preferred products in these emergency situations are not permitted. The recipient's practitioner must contact the Prior Authorization Unit to request authorization to continue the medication past the emergency supply, and a new prescription must be issued.

This process may be used when the Prior Authorization Unit is closed (Sundays; Monday - Saturday before 8am and after 6 pm) or when the PA system is unavailable. The pharmacist may also use professional judgment in situations that would necessitate an emergency supply.

The prescribing practitioner must indicate that the prescription is an emergency Rx on the face of the prescription if hard copy or if the prescription is called in to the pharmacy, the emergency status of the prescription must be communicated to the pharmacist who must indicate "Emergency Rx" on the hard copy prescription. When the pharmacist determines the prescription is an emergency, the pharmacist must indicate "Emergency by Pharmacist" on the hard copy prescription.

Note: Refer to Appendix D Point of Sale User Guide for detailed claim submission information.

Recipients are exempt from paying co-payments for emergency situations.

DHH will monitor emergency prescriptions/recipients on an ongoing basis through management reports, pharmacy provider audits, and other monitoring programs to review the number of these prescriptions and the reasons for them.

The rule making process has begun regarding the change in the length of a Medicaid prescription. A Notice Of Intent was published in the November 2011 State Register which addresses the allowance of a prescription for drugs other than controlled substance to be filled up to 11 times or up to one year after the date prescribed by a physician or other service practitioner. A prescription for a controlled dangerous

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substance listed in Schedule II, III, IV, or V shall expire six months after the date written. There will be a Remittance Advice (RA) message indicating the effective date of this change.

Policy changes regarding overrides for prescriptions with Federal Upper Limits/ Louisiana Maximum Allowable Cost (FUL/LMAC) have also been implemented. When a prescribing practitioner certifies a specific brand name drug is medically necessary for a specific patient, the prescribing practitioner must certify in his/her own handwriting on the prescription or an attachment to the prescription "Brand Medically Necessary" or "Brand Necessary".

There are situations in the Louisiana Medicaid Preferred Drug List process (PDL) in which brand name drugs are on the PDL and the generic drug requires PA and there is a FUL or LMAC on these drugs. In this situation, when the prescribing practitioner certifies the brand name drug, which is on the PDL, is medically necessary by handwriting "Brand Medically Necessary" or "Brand Necessary" on the prescription, the pharmacist can dispense and bill Medicaid for the brand name drug. In this situation, when the prescribing practitioner prescribes the generic drug, then a prior authorization would be required.

Information on the Prior Authorization process, including the PDL and Prior Authorization Request Form (copy is attached, Form RXPA01), is also available on the Louisiana Medicaid website (www.lamedicaid.com). This website will be updated when changes (additions or deletions) are made to the PDL. The program may also utilize the provider remittance advices to notify providers of PDL changes that must be implemented in short time frames.

The Department has received inquiries that drug products requiring PA are not reimbursable by Medicaid. Medicaid does reimburse for drug products requiring prior authorization when the prior authorization process is followed.

Thank you for your continued cooperation. We appreciate your participation in the Medicaid Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Gregory". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Don Gregory
Medicaid Director

DG/MJT/gbm

Attachments (2)