




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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 2, 2014
TO: All Louisiana Medicaid Providers
FROM: 
J. Ruth Kennedy, Medicaid Director
SUBJECT: Edits on Anti-Anxiety Drugs for Louisiana Legacy Medicaid and Shared Health Plans

The Louisiana Medicaid Pharmacy Program in collaboration with the Louisiana Medicaid Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board has established limits on anti-anxiety drugs effective April 16, 2014.

Therapeutic Duplication

Pharmacy claims will deny if there is an active claim for an anxiolytic medication and another claim is submitted for an anxiolytic in the same therapeutic class. Claims will deny at Point of Sale (POS) with:

**NCPDP rejection code 88 (DUR Reject Error) mapped to
EOB 482 TD (Therapeutic Duplication)**

After consultation with the prescriber, the pharmacist may override the therapeutic duplication denial. This consultation is necessary to confirm that the (1) prescriber is aware of the current active anxiolytic claim and (2) the addition of a different anxiolytic is necessary (i.e. change in therapy). The pharmacist may override the claim denial after consultation with the prescriber by submitting in:

**NCPDP 439-E4 field (Reason for Service Code) TD (Therapeutic Duplication)
NCPDP 440-E5 field (Professional Service Code MO (Prescriber Consulted)
NCPDP 441-E6 field (Result of Service Code) 1G (Filled with Prescriber Approval)**

The pharmacist must document the override codes on the hardcopy prescription or in the pharmacy's electronic recordkeeping system.

Quantity Limits

Pharmacy claims for solid oral dosage forms of alprazolam IR (Xanax®), chlordiazepoxide (Librium®), lorazepam (Ativan®), oxazepam (Serax®), clonazepam (Klonopin®), clorazepate (Tranxene®), and diazepam (Valium®) will have quantity limits of 90 units per rolling 30 days. There is also a limit of 30 units per rolling 30 days for alprazolam ER (Xanax XR®).

Claims will deny at Point of Sale (POS) when quantity limits are exceeded with:

**NCPDP rejection error 76 (Quantity and/or days supply exceeds program maximum) mapped to
EOB Code 457 (Quantity and/or days supply exceeds program maximum)**

The pharmacist may override the claim denial after consultation with the prescriber, to verify medical necessity of excessive quantity, by submitting in:

**NCPDP 439-E4 field (Reason for Service Code) EX (Excessive Quantity)
NCPDP 440-E5 field (Professional Service Code) M0 (Prescriber Consulted)
NCPDP 441-E6 field (Result of Service Code) 1G (Filled with Prescriber Approval)**

The pharmacist must document the override codes on the hardcopy prescription or in the pharmacy's electronic recordkeeping system.

Exception: Quantity limits should be bypassed for clonazepam (Klonopin®), clorazepate (Tranxene®), and diazepam (Valium®) when an acceptable diagnosis is submitted in NCPDP field 424-DO. Acceptable diagnosis codes that will bypass edit are:

Diagnosis Code (ICD-9)	Description
345-345.99	Epilepsy and recurrent seizures
779	Convulsions in newborn
780.33	Post-traumatic seizures
780.39	Convulsions, other than febrile

To accurately determine which prescriptions should be exempt, we are requiring an ICD-9-CM diagnosis code to be documented on the hardcopy prescription or in the pharmacy's electronic recordkeeping system.

Diagnosis Code

All claims for alprazolam ER (Xanax XR®) and alprazolam ODT (Niravam®) will require a diagnosis code in NCPDP field 424-DO (Diagnosis Code). Claims submitted without a diagnosis code will deny at Point of Sale (POS) with:

**NCPDP rejection code 39 (Missing or Invalid ICD-9 diagnosis code) mapped to
EOB code 575 (Missing or Invalid ICD-9 diagnosis code)**

Acceptable diagnosis codes (ICD-9) for alprazolam ER (Xanax XR®) are:

Diagnosis Code (ICD-9)	Description
300.01	Panic disorder without agoraphobia
300.21	Panic disorder with agoraphobia

Acceptable diagnosis codes (ICD-9) for alprazolam ODT (Niravam®) are:

Diagnosis Code (ICD-9)	Description
300.01	Panic disorder without agoraphobia
300.21	Panic disorder with agoraphobia
300.02	Generalized anxiety disorder

There are no override provisions through the Point of Sale (POS) system using NCPDP service codes.

To accurately determine which prescriptions are submitted with an acceptable diagnosis code, we are requiring an ICD-9-CM diagnosis code to be documented on the hardcopy prescription or in the pharmacy's electronic recordkeeping system.

Age Restriction

All claims for alprazolam ER (Xanax XR®) and alprazolam ODT (Niravam®) should deny at Point of Sale (POS) for clients 17 years of age or younger on the date of service with:

NCPDP rejection code 60 (Product/Service Not Covered for Patient Age) mapped to EOB 234 (P/F Age Restriction)

There are no override provisions through the Point of Sale (POS) system using NCPDP service codes.

Please note: Alprazolam ER (Xanax XR®) has multiple edits including therapeutic duplication, quantity limits, diagnosis code requirement, and age restriction.

Compliance associated with program policy will be verified through the pharmacy compliance audit program.

If you need clarification, you may contact the Pharmacy Help Desk at (800) 437-9101, send a fax to (225) 342-1980, or refer to www.lamedicaid.com. Your continued cooperation and support of the Louisiana Medicaid Program efforts are greatly appreciated.

MCJ/MBW/ESF

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