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Newsletter

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TO: Hospitals, Hospice, Physicians, Nurse Midwifery, Certified Nurse Practitioners/ Clinical Nurse Specialists, Independent Clinics, Case Management and Health Maintenance Organizations – **For Information Only**

SUBJECT: **Change in Work First New Jersey/General Assistance Policy Concerning Coverage and Reimbursement for HIV/AIDS Drugs**

EFFECTIVE: Claims with service dates on or after July 1, 2000

PURPOSE: To notify pharmaceutical providers of a change in Work First New Jersey/General Assistance (WFNJ/GA) policy concerning coverage and reimbursement for HIV/AIDS drugs, including:

(1) The requirement that WFNJ/GA beneficiaries diagnosed with HIV/AIDS enroll in the AIDS Drug Distribution Program (ADDP) administered by the Division of AIDS Prevention and Control (DOAPC), New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS); and

(2) The discontinuation of WFNJ/GA coverage and reimbursement for certain HIV/AIDS drugs.

BACKGROUND: The New Jersey Division of Family Development (DFD) currently provides fee-for-service coverage and reimbursement for all Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved legend drugs, protein nutritional supplements, insulin, insulin syringes, diabetic testing materials, certain over-the-counter (OTC) drugs, and pharmaceutical devices provided to eligible WFNJ/GA beneficiaries.

WFNJ/GA beneficiaries diagnosed with HIV/AIDS will now be eligible for coverage of certain medications through the AIDS Drug Distribution Program (ADDP). DFD is discontinuing coverage for certain antiretroviral drugs used in the treatment of HIV/AIDS. WFNJ/GA beneficiaries will continue to receive coverage for these antiretroviral drugs and other drugs used in the treatment of HIV/AIDS from the ADPP.

ACTION: Effective for claims with service dates **on or after July 1, 2000**, the DFD is implementing the following policy changes for WFNJ/GA beneficiaries diagnosed with HIV/AIDS:

1. WFNJ/GA beneficiaries diagnosed with HIV/AIDS must enroll in the ADDP to receive coverage for thymidine nucleosides, thymidine analogs, protease inhibitors, nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitors, non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors, carbocyclic nucleoside analogs, purine nucleoside analogs of deoxyadenosine, and pyrimidine nucleoside analogs.
2. The WFNJ/GA/ADDP beneficiary will select a pharmacy to provide ADDP-covered services. The selected pharmacy will receive a notification letter from ADDP announcing the beneficiary's name, ADDP eligibility identification number, effective date, expiration date, address, a listing of ADDP covered HIV/AIDS drugs and billing instructions.
3. Pharmacies are required to submit claims for ADDP HIV/AIDS drugs denied coverage by the WFNJ/GA program through the POS claims processing system by reporting the beneficiary's ADDP eligibility number.
4. Error Code 402 will post to those HIV/AIDS drugs not covered by WFNJ/GA that are eligible for coverage by ADDP. These claims must be submitted to Unisys using the WFNJ/GA beneficiary's ADDP eligibility number.

It is important to note that pharmacies are responsible for upholding patient confidentiality with regard to patient diagnosis. Every effort shall be made to hold a patient's diagnosis in the strictest confidence. Any failure to comply may result in personal and/or professional liability, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 26:5C-5 et seq.

If you have any questions regarding this Newsletter, please contact the Chief, Pharmaceutical Services, Office of Utilization Management, DMAHS, at (609) 588-2724, or the Unisys Pharmacy Consultant at (609) 588-6039.

If you have any questions regarding PAAD, ADDP and CF, please contact Kathleen Mason, Director of PAAD, DHSS, at (609) 588-7032.

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