



State of New Jersey
Department of Human Services
Division of Medical Assistance & Health Services

NEWSLETTER

Volume 11 No.30

May 2001

TO: Providers of Pharmaceutical Services - **For Action Only**
Physicians, Certified Nurse Practitioners/Clinical Nurse Specialists,
Independent Clinics, Health Maintenance Organizations - **For Information Only**

SUBJECT: Medicaid Coverage of Ziprasidone (Geodon®)

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

PURPOSE: The purpose of this newsletter is to notify providers of pharmaceutical services regarding Medicaid and NJ FamilyCare fee-for-service (FFS) coverage and billing procedures for requesting reimbursement for ziprasidone (Geodon®).

BACKGROUND: As indicated in the Medicaid Newsletter, Volume 10, No. 73, dated October 2000, atypical antipsychotic drugs, including clozapine, risperidone, olanzapine, quetiapine, and now ziprasidone, are eligible for FFS coverage under the Medicaid and NJ FamilyCare programs. Ziprasidone is the next drug of a generation of atypical antipsychotic agents used only for the treatment of schizophrenia. These atypical antipsychotic agents are not included as covered benefits under the Medicaid or NJ FamilyCare managed care programs.

ACTION: **Effective immediately**, ziprasidone shall be reimbursed by Medicaid and NJ FamilyCare as a FFS pharmaceutical service. To request FFS reimbursement for ziprasidone, pharmacy claims must be submitted to Unisys, the State's fiscal agent, for adjudication purposes. This billing procedure shall apply for all Medicaid and NJ FamilyCare FFS or managed care beneficiaries.

If you have any questions regarding this newsletter, please contact the Chief, Pharmaceutical Services, at (609) 588-2724.

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