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# Newsletter

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Volume 11 No.35

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

**SUBJECT:** **Changes/Additions to Prospective Drug Utilization  
Review (PDUR) Standards**

**EFFECTIVE:** **Claims with service dates on or after March 15, 2001**

**PURPOSE:** This Newsletter is intended to notify providers of pharmaceutical services of revised Prospective Drug Utilization Review (PDUR) standards recommended by the State's Drug Utilization Review Board (NJDURB) and approved by the Commissioners of Human Services and Health and Senior Services.

**BACKGROUND:** The Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) and the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) through the State's Point-of-Sale (POS) claims processing system implemented a PDUR program designed to ensure the cost-effective delivery of quality pharmaceutical services. Currently, the Medicaid FFS and NJFC fee for service (FFS) programs monitors duplicate and early refill claim payments, utilization of certain drugs based on State policy, sex and age categories, therapeutic duplication, severe drug-drug conflicts, maximum daily dosage and duration of drug use, as well as provides information to assist pharmacists with their patient consultation responsibilities. Pharmacists should refer to Newsletter, Volume 9 No. 67, dated November 1999, for information regarding the Medical Exception Process (MEP).

**ACTION: Effective for claims with service dates on or after March 15, 2001,** the following revised PDUR standards shall apply to Medicaid FFS, NJFC FFS, Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD), Cystic Fibrosis (CF), and AIDS Drug Distribution Program (ADDP) pharmacy claims:

Nutritional supplements require prior authorization as a matter of Medicaid policy, N.J.A.C. 10:51–1.14, and based on recommendations of the NJDURB, as approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services.

In response to provider concerns, the NJDURB has recommended, and the Commissioner of Human Services has approved, that nutritional supplements be authorized by First Health Services when requested by a pharmacy for beneficiaries under 18 years of age for a medically necessary indication. DUR standards approved and distributed to pharmacies in the DMAHS/DHSS Newsletter Volume 9 Number 69, dated November 1999, shall be limited to Medicaid beneficiaries 18 years of age or older.

It is important to note that authorizations for nutritional supplements for beneficiaries under 18 years of age will continue to be reviewed by the NJDURB to determine if further approvals are warranted, based on Federal and State law regarding payment for services, in accordance with 42 USC 1396r-8 and N.J.A.C. 10:51 – 1.14(b).

If you have any questions regarding this Newsletter, please contact the Chief, Pharmaceutical Services, DMAHS, at (609) 588-2724, or First Health Services at (877) 888-2939.

If you have any questions concerning PAAD, CF, or ADDP, please contact the PAAD Pharmacy Consultant at (609) 588-7034.

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