



Newsletter

*Published by the
N.J. Dept. of Human Services
Div. of Medical Assistance & Health Services
& the N.J. Dept. of Health & Senior Services
Div. of Senior Benefits and
Utilization Management*

Volume 11 No. 49

June 2001

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: **New PDUR Standards for Concurrent Utilization of Acid-
Related Disorder Drugs**

EFFECTIVE: **July 1, 2001**

PURPOSE: This Newsletter is intended to notify providers of pharmaceutical services of revised Prospective Drug Utilization Review (PDUR) standards recommended by the New Jersey 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 program 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 the durations of use for certain drugs, as well as provides information to assist pharmacists with their patient consultation responsibilities.

ACTION: **Effective for claims with service dates on or after July 1, 2001**, the following revised PDUR standards shall apply to Medicaid fee-for-service (FFS), NJ FamilyCare FFS, Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD), Cystic Fibrosis (CF), AIDS Drug Distribution Program (ADDP) and Senior Gold Prescription Discount Program pharmacy claims:

Overlapping claims for acid-related disorder (ARD) drugs belonging to two (2) of the following drug classes, proton pump inhibitors or H2-antagonists, shall cause a therapeutic duplication standard to be exceeded. Pharmacists and prescribers will be alerted to a possible therapeutic duplication by POS response or by interventions performed by First Health Services, respectively.

Pharmacy claims exceeding a therapeutic duplication standard shall receive Error Code 405. Pharmacists should refer to Newsletter, Volume 9 No. 67, dated November 1999, for information regarding the Medical Exception Process .

It is important to note that duplication caused by the use of over-the-counter drugs will not be detected by the State's claims processing system and will require close monitoring by pharmacists.

Proton pump inhibitors include: esomeprazole lansoprazole, omeprazole, rabeprazole and pantoprazole. An H2-antagonist shall include: cimetidine, famotidine, nizatidine and ranitidine.

Appropriate diagnoses for concurrent use of ARDs include: gastroesophageal reflux disease, Barrett's Esophagitis, esophageal varices, and other gastrointestinal disorders requiring chronic long-term or permanent acid suppression, such as Zollinger-Ellison Syndrome or nighttime acid break-through diseases, such as gastritis and peptic ulcer disease.

Inappropriate concurrent use of ARDs include: non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug gastritis prophylaxis, gastritis without nighttime acid break-through, peptic ulcer disease without nighttime acid break-through, helicobacter pylori, use of an H-2 antagonist prescribed for dosing other than at bedtime or when a medical necessity form is not returned to First Health Services by a prescriber.

Initially, a 30-day supply of ARDs exceeding a therapeutic duplication standard may be dispensed without prior authorization. After 30 days, pharmacists must contact First Health Clinical Services at 1-877-888-2939 to request prior authorization for any additional medication(s). Subsequent prior authorizations shall be based on medical necessity information provided by prescribers to First Health Clinical Services.

If you have any questions regarding this Newsletter, please contact the Chief Pharmaceutical Consultant, DMAHS, at (609) 588-2724, or the First Health Services Customer Service at 1-877-266-3589.

If you have any questions concerning PAAD, CF, Senior Gold or ADDP, please contact the PAAD Pharmacy Consultant at (609) 631-4887.

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