



# Newsletter

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**TO:** Providers of Pharmaceutical Services - **For Action**  
Physicians, Certified Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists,  
Independent Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), and  
Health Maintenance Organizations - **For Information Only**

**SUBJECT:** Additions/Changes to PDUR Standards per the New Jersey State  
Drug Utilization Review Board Meeting in October 2002

**EFFECTIVE:** Claims with service dates on or after October 1, 2002

**PURPOSE:** To notify providers of pharmaceutical services of additions/changes to the State's Prospective Drug Utilization Review (PDUR) program recommended by the New Jersey Drug Utilization Review Board (NJDURB) and approved by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS) and the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS).

**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 therapy, early refill claim payments, utilization of certain drugs based on State policy, sex and age categories, Therapeutic duplication, maximum daily dosage, drug-drug interactions, and duration of drug use. This program is also designed to provide pharmacists with important information to assist them with their patient consultation responsibilities.

Please see the Medicaid/DHSS Newsletter Volume 9, No. 67, dated November 1999, for additional information concerning this program and the Medical Exception Process (MEP).

**ACTION:** For Medicaid and NJ FamilyCare fee-for-service (FFS) pharmacy claims, Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD), AIDS Drug Distribution Program (ADDP) and Cystic Fibrosis (CF) pharmacy claims with service dates on or after October 1, 2002, the following additions/changes to the State's PDUR standards shall apply:

**(1) New Patient Compliance Standards (Error Code 433):**

Under-Utilization determined by a search of previously paid pharmacy claims for the same drug product. Based on under-utilization standards recommended by the NJDURB and approved by the State (for example 200% of the prior claim days supply), an assessment of utilization will be performed by the POS system.

If the days supply on the current claim exceeds the patient compliance standard, the Error Code 433 shall post to the pharmacy claim advising pharmacists that a medication is being under-utilized. Error Code description shall read, "Possible Under-Utilization; FH to Contract MD." See the DMAHS/DHSS Newsletters, Volume 12, No. 95, dated September 2002, for a listing of pharmaceutical inhalants subject to Error Code 433.

Use of Error Code 433 is being expanded to include the newest pharmaceutical inhalant used in the treatment of asthma. Advair, a 2-drug combination inhalant used in the treatment of airway spasms and inflammation associated with asthma, will now be monitored for under-utilization concerns.

**(2) Maximum Daily Dosage Standards (Error Code 535):**

Additional maximum daily dosage standards were approved for calcium channel blockers used in the treatment of beneficiaries 65 years of age and older. These standards were approved by the Senior Subcommittee of the NJDURB. These additional standards are described in the following table.

<b>Drug Name</b>	<b>Maximum Daily Dosage</b>
Nisoldipine	60mg
Nifedipine	180mg
Nifedipine XL/CC	120mg
Verapamil	360mg
Verapamil SR	480mg
Verapamil HS/PM	480mg
Diltiazem	360mg
Diltiazem SR	480mg
Diltiazem CD/XR	480mg
Nicardipine	120mg
Nicardipine SR	120mg
Nimodipine	360mg
Isardipine	10mg
Isardipine CR	10mg
Bepidil	400mg
Felodipine	10mg
Amiodipine	10mg

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

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

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