



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

NEWSLETTER

Volume 16 No. 02

February 2006

TO: All Providers - For Action
Health Maintenance Organizations - For Information Only

SUBJECT: Methadone-Narcotic Drug use and the MEP

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

PURPOSE: The purpose of this newsletter is to clarify that prescriptions written for narcotic drugs for NJ FamilyCare (NJFC), Medicaid and Work First New Jersey (WFNJ)/General Assistance (GA) clients who are receiving methadone maintenance, are subject to prior authorization.

ACTION: On July 1, 2005, the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services enhanced its drug utilization review (DUR) process to include narcotic drug use by clients receiving methadone maintenance.

If a prescription is written for a narcotic drug for a Medicaid client for whom Medicaid is paying for methadone maintenance, the dispensing pharmacist will receive a response message to the POS transaction which indicates "prior authorization required" (edit 423).

The dispensing pharmacist must then call a staff pharmacist responsible for the administration of the Medical Exceptions Process (MEP), at 1-877-888-2939 (toll free), for prior authorization.

To learn more about the MEP, please see the NJFC/Medicaid Newsletter, Volume 9, No. 67, dated November 1999. Providers may access the Newsletter on line at www.njmmis.com. See Newsletter & Alerts.

If you have any questions regarding this Newsletter, please contact the Office of Provider Relations at (609) 588-7151.

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