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# Newsletter

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**TO:** Providers of Pharmaceutical Services - **For Action**  
Health Maintenance Organizations – **For Information Only**

**SUBJECT:** **Enhanced Daily Dosage Standards**

**PURPOSE:** To notify providers of pharmaceutical services of an expansion of the State's Drug Utilization Review program to include additional daily dosage standards for prescription drugs.

**EFFECTIVE:** Claims with service dates on or after September 9, 2009

**BACKGROUND:** Since December 1, 1999, the New Jersey Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) and the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) have applied daily dosage standards to certain prescription drugs. These standards are recommended by the New Jersey Drug Utilization Review Board (NJDURB) and approved by the Department of Human Services and the DHSS. The intent of these standards is to ensure the quality of pharmaceutical services provided by the State of New Jersey.

DMAHS and DHSS have approved the application of First Data Bank (FDB) daily dosage standards to all prescription drugs as recommended by the NJDURB. These standards are determined using primary medical literature, medical reference texts, treatment guidelines, and manufacturers' package inserts. Daily dosage standards previously approved by the NJDURB shall remain in effect.

**ACTION:**

- Claims exceeding established standards shall be denied by Error Code 537, "Daily Drug Quantity Exceeded; Immediate Prior Authorization (PA) Required" or the new Error Code 2100, "FDB Daily Dosage Quantity Standard Exceeded." Pharmacists may request PA by contacting the Unisys MEP Unit at (877) 888-2939 **ONLY** after contacting the physician to discuss the daily dose and the FDB daily dosage standard is **NOT** clinically acceptable.
- The Point-of-Sale (POS) response received by pharmacies will continue to include the clinically accepted daily dosage standard expressed as the outcome of metric quantity divided by days supply.

For example, albuterol HFA is packaged as an 8.5 gm container. Each container provides 200 inhalations. If the clinically accepted dose is 8 inhalations daily, the daily dosage standard would be  $8.5 \text{ gm}/25 \text{ days} = 0.34$

For example, an ophthalmic solution is packaged in a 5 ml container. Each milliliter is equivalent to 20 drops. If the clinically accepted dose is 2 drops in each eye daily, the daily dosage standard would be  $5 \text{ ml}/25 \text{ days} = 0.2$ .

- Daily dosage standards shall not apply to Medicare Part D claims.

If any questions regarding this Newsletter, please contact Unisys Provider Services at (800) 776-6334.

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