



# Newsletter

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N.J. Dept. of Human Services,  
Div. of Medical Assistance & Health Services  
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**TO:** Providers of Pharmaceutical Services - **For Action**  
Health Maintenance Organizations – **For Information Only**

**SUBJECT:** **Change in Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Coverage**

**EFFECTIVE:** Claims with service dates on or after January 1, 2013

**PURPOSE:** To notify providers of pharmaceutical services of an expansion in Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage to include benzodiazepines and certain barbiturates.

**BACKGROUND:** The Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA) was amended by Section 175 to include Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage for (1) barbiturates used in the treatment of epilepsy, cancer or a chronic mental health disorder; and (2) benzodiazepines prescribed for all medically-accepted indications.

**ACTION:** Effective for claims with service dates on or after January 1, 2013, barbiturates used in the treatment of epilepsy, cancer or a chronic mental health disorder; and benzodiazepines prescribed for all medically-accepted indications shall be covered by the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program.

## **Impact on NJ FamilyCare (NJFC)/Medicaid beneficiaries**

- Effective for claims with service dates on or after January 1, 2013, NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid fee-for-service (FFS) beneficiaries with Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage will be required to pay a Medicare Part D co-payment for certain barbiturate and all benzodiazepine prescriptions now covered by Medicare Part D.
- DMAHS anticipates that the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) will determine the eligibility of Medicare Part D beneficiaries for barbiturate drug coverage. Error Code 2021 "Part D wraparound with PA" shall post to any barbiturate claims denied by the PDP requiring that the pharmacist contact the Molina Medical Exception Process (MEP) Unit at 1-877-888-2939 to request prior authorization.

- All claims for benzodiazepines with service dates on or after January 1, 2013 for Medicare Part D-eligible beneficiaries shall be denied payment by the NJFC/Medicaid program.

**Impact on Division of Aging Services (DoAS) Programs (Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD) program, the Senior Gold Prescription Discount Program (Senior Gold), the AIDS Drug Distribution Program (ADDP) and the Cystic Fibrosis (CF) program.**

- All claims for benzodiazepines and barbiturates with service dates on or after January 1, 2013 for Medicare Part D-eligible beneficiaries are required to be billed to PDPs prior to submitting claims to the DoAS programs for secondary payments.
- Claims for barbiturates with service dates on or after January 1, 2013 denied by PDPs because the barbiturate is **not** being used for the treatment of epilepsy, cancer or a chronic mental health disorder may be considered for payment by the DoAS programs. In these situations, the pharmacy should contact the DoAS Pharmacy Unit at 1-866-854-1596.
- Pharmacy claims for benzodiazepines or barbiturates denied payment by a PDP because the prescribed drug is a non-formulary drug are not covered by the DoAS programs. The prescriber may choose to prescribe an appropriate formulary alternative or may initiate a formulary exception appeal with the PDP. DoAS programs will not provide coverage for a PDP-determined non-formulary drug.

If there are any questions regarding this Newsletter, please contact Molina Medicaid Solutions (formerly Unisys) Provider Services at 1-800-776-6334.

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