
Senior Services News

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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: **Additional changes in coverage of Cosmetic Drugs**

EFFECTIVE: PAAD and Senior Gold claims with service dates on or after
June 1, 2001.

PURPOSE: The New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS) Newsletter Volume 4 No. 5, dated December 2000, notified providers of pharmaceutical services to Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled (PAAD) and Senior Gold beneficiaries of changes in coverage of drugs for cosmetic purposes. This Newsletter is intended to inform providers of additional changes in coverage of cosmetic drugs and hair loss medications.

BACKGROUND: Based on rules at N.J.A.C. 8:83-2.1, PAAD and Senior Gold prescriptions for cosmetic drugs and weight loss medications require prior authorization from First Health Service Corporation. Pharmacists should refer to Newsletter Volume 9 No. 67, dated November 1999, for information regarding the Medical Exception Process. Pharmacists may continue to reach a First Health pharmacist toll-free at (877) 888-2939.

ACTION: **For PAAD and Senior Gold claims with service dates on or after June 1, 2001**, DHSS shall provide coverage and reimbursement for cosmetic and hair loss medications under the following conditions:

1. For the purposes of this process, drugs for cosmetic purposes and for baldness shall be those defined by First Data Bank. A current example of a drug for hair loss is finasteride (Propecia®), and an example of a cosmetic drug is eflornithine (Vaniqa®).
2. Claims for hair loss and cosmetic drugs shall be subject to authorization through the Medical Exception Process (MEP). See Newsletter, Volume 9, No. 67, dated November 1999, regarding procedures for requesting authorization.

3. When a pharmacist processes an initial claim for hair loss medications or cosmetic drugs, the point of sale (POS) system will post edit 537 prompting the pharmacist to contact First Health Services, which will allow an initial 30-day supply. Claims requesting more than 30-day supply will be denied by edit 537.
4. First Health Services will outreach to the prescriber to request medical justification based on the criteria described below:

A. Coverage for the hair loss medication Propecia® shall be approved based on the following criteria:

- male hair loss secondary to psychiatric related condition
- females with hirsutism

B. Coverage for the cosmetic drug eflornithine (Vaniqa®) shall be limited based on the following criteria:

- Females with facial hirsutism

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