



Senior Services News

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

SUBJECT: The Drug Utilization Review Council (DURC) Formulary

PURPOSE: To inform providers of the current status of the DURC Formulary as well as the related provisions of N.J.S.A. Title 24.

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

BACKGROUND: The State Fiscal Year 2004 Appropriations Act, P.L. 2003, c.122, provides: "Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law or regulation to the contrary, effective July 1, 2003, no state funds are appropriated to a Drug Utilization Review Council in the Department of Health and Senior Services, and therefore the functions of the Council shall cease."

ACTION: Pursuant to the general supervisory authority, the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services issues the following information:

1. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:71, the list of Interchangeable Drug Products (the DURC Formulary), including all additions and deletions through July 7, 2003, remains in effect until May 17, 2004. All other pertinent sections of the Prescription Drug Price and Quality Stabilization Act, N.J.S.A. 24:6E-1, remain in effect until amended or repealed.
2. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services is in the process of amending N.J.A.C. 8:71 to allow the Department to use the U.S. FDA Electronic Orange Book as the list of Interchangeable Drug Products in the future.
3. Pharmacists may use the Electronic Orange Book at www.fda.gov/cder/ob to verify approval of new generic products for substitution. When a possible interchangeable product does not appear either on the DURC formulary or in the Electronic Orange Book, the pharmacist must consult with the prescriber, and obtain permission and confirmation to dispense, see N.J.S.A. 24:6E-8.

If you have any questions concerning this Newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact the Regional Pharmaceutical Consultant at (609) 631-4887.

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