



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

NEWSLETTER

Volume 9 No. 69

November 1999

- TO:** Providers of Pharmaceutical Services – **For Action**
Physicians, Certified Nurse Practitioners/Clinical
Nurse Specialists, Independent Clinics, and Health
Maintenance Organizations – **For Information Only**
- SUBJECT:** **Change in Prior Authorization Procedures for Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) drugs, Methadone, Protein Nutritional Supplements, and Specialized Infant Formulas**
- EFFECTIVE:** Claims with service dates **on or after December 1, 1999**
- PURPOSE:** To notify providers of pharmaceutical services of a change in prior authorization (PA) procedures for requesting PA for drugs currently authorized by Medicaid District Offices (MDOs), including ADD drugs, methadone, protein nutritional supplements, and specialized infant formulas. **This procedural change will have no effect on Medicaid requirements for medical necessity as they relate to these products.**
- BACKGROUND:** Currently, providers of pharmaceutical services may request PA from designated MDOs for certain products, including ADD drugs, methadone, protein nutritional supplements, and specialized infant formulas. See N.J.A.C. 10:51-1.14 for additional information regarding PA.
- ACTION:**
- 1) **Effective for claims with service dates on or after December 1, 1999**, the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) Medicaid District Office Staff will no longer be responsible for handling prior authorization requests for ADD drugs, methadone, protein nutritional supplements, and specialized infant formulas for Medicaid and General Assistance (GA) beneficiaries.

- 2) **Effective for claims with service dates on or after December 1, 1999**, providers of pharmaceutical services are required to request PA for these drugs from the First Health Services Corporation, otherwise known as the Medical Exception Process (MEP) contractor.

First Health Services Corporation is located in Princeton. The office will be staffed by New Jersey licensed pharmacists during normal business hours between 8 A.M. and 5 P.M., for processing non-emergency PA requests. Pharmacists will be on call after hours, on weekends and holidays, to process emergency requests

An emergency request may result when a pharmacy claim is denied payment for a DUR reason and the beneficiary is out of medication **or** an original prescription has been presented to the pharmacy for dispensing.

For emergency requests for Medicaid and General Assistance (GA) prescriptions involving ADD drugs, methadone, protein nutritional supplements, and specialized infant formulas, the pharmacy may use the on-call service to request prior authorization **or** dispense **up to** a six (6)-day emergency supply of medication without prior authorization (see N.J.A.C. 10:51-1.14). However, after the emergency supply of medication has been used by the beneficiary, prior authorization will be required for dispensing additional medication.

First Health Services Corporation may be contacted 24-hours a day, seven (7) days a week at 1-877-888-2939. All decisions concerning PA will be processed by a New Jersey licensed pharmacist.

It is important to note that First Health Services Corporation must be contacted at 1-877-888-2939 by a pharmacist to request PA or responses to questions concerning PA. **Questions concerning PA for these products must be directed to the First Health Services Corporation. Unisys and the MDOs are not responsible for issuing PA or responding to questions concerning PA.**

- 3) Pharmacists will be notified of the need for PA for these products through the point-of-sale (POS) claims processing system. Edit 535 will post to those claims requiring PA. An additional 30-day supply of medication may be dispensed based on the outcome of the MEP intervention (see Newsletter Volume 9, No. 67, dated November 1999).
- 4) PA numbers issued by the First Health Services Corporation will be available for claims processed through POS within one (1) hour of the PA number being issued for non-emergency requests prior to 5 P.M.
- 5) The pharmacist, prescriber and beneficiary will receive confirmation of a PA number in writing from the First Health Services Corporation.

- 6) Physicians and beneficiaries may inquire about PA for these products by contacting First Health Services at 1-877-266-3589.

If you have any questions regarding this Newsletter, please contact the Chief, Pharmaceutical Services, DMAHS, at (609) 588-2724, or the First Health Services Corporation.

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