



Department of Health and Human Services
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To: MaineCare Providers
From: Jennifer Cook, Pharmacy Unit Manager
Date: September 3rd, 2009
Re: Initial Prescription Limits (Phase II)

MaineCare previously announced that it was instituting additional measures designed to increase cost effectiveness including Drug Benefit Management, Drug-Drug editing promoting education and patient safety, recent PPI limitations and Intensive Benefit Management of controlled substances.

Valuable research has suggested that adherence to medication and other variables may lead to large amounts of unused and discarded medication. Closer evaluation of side effects and efficacy may lead to better patient outcome and better safety for patients with closer evaluation of initial response.

In response to this research, MaineCare instituted new 15-day limits on initial prescriptions for various medication that have been identified with high side effect profiles, high discontinuation rates, or frequent dose adjustments. Effective 8/6/09, MaineCare began limiting initial prescriptions to 15 day supplies on the following medications: Suboxone, Subutex, Chantix and Nicotine replacement products. Starting 9/11/09, the following medications will be included in the initial prescription limits: Bladder antispasmodics: Bethanechol, Detrol, Flavoxate, Oxybutynin, Sanctura, Urispas, Vesicare, Detrol LA, Ditropan XL, Enablex, Oxytrol, Toviaz, and Narcotics: Opana, Oxycodone, Avinza, Duragesic, Fentanyl, Kadian, Methadone, Morphine sulfate, Opana ER, Oramorph, and Oxycontin.

Initial prescriptions for preferred products over the initial 15-day supply will require prior authorization. Subsequent refills of these products will be allowed at the usual MaineCare allowable days supply. Any non-preferred medications within this list that obtain prior authorization will also require the 15-day initial prescription limitations.

These new limitations will help ensure cost effectiveness without “wasting” or “discarding” of used medications and assist MaineCare in controlling the cost of healthcare.

For further questions please contact Goold Health Systems at 1-888-420-9711

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