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Pharmacy Facts

MassHealth Pharmacy Program

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Current information for pharmacists about the MassHealth Pharmacy program

Mass Health Drug List

On June 1, 2004 changes to the MHDL include:

Duragesic and Oxycontin (and its generics) will require prior authorization (PA). Keep in mind that if a patient has filled a prescription for one of these products in the last 90 days PA will not be required for that product. That is why we again request you transmit all claims for these products before telling a member that their prescription needs PA. Also remember that if a new to therapy patient requires a long acting opioid, morphine sulfate SR does not require PA.

Generic products benazepril (Lotensin) and metolazone (Zaroxolyn) have been added to the MHDL. The corresponding brand-name products will require PA.

Generic ribavirin capsules will no longer require PA. This change will take effect on June 4, 2004.

Controlled Substance Management Program (CSMP)

Currently there are over 800 members enrolled in this program. These members have been "locked-in" to a specific pharmacy if they have obtained 11 or more prescriptions for a controlled substance from 4 or more prescribers and/or 4 or more pharmacies in a 3-month period. When pharmacists from non-primary pharmacies determine that the member's health or safety would be jeopardized without immediate access to a drug, they may contact the DUR program. Remember that a member will be locked-in to a pharmacy for *all* medications not just controlled substances. If a member who is "locked-in" to a pharmacy in Springfield is visiting in Boston and requires a prescription for an antibiotic the non-primary pharmacy must make the call.

72-Hour Emergency Fill

Please remember that after you fill an initial RX for a 72-hour emergency supply, you need to remove the "3" from your Level of Service Field before subsequent refills.

Please direct any questions or comments (or to be taken off of this fax distribution) to Victor Moquin of ACS at 617-423-9830