



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH  
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

JANET OLSZEWSKI  
DIRECTOR

February 2004

Dear Medicaid Provider:

Effective April 15, 2004, Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) will expand its dose optimization (dose consolidation) edits. The edits are an expansion of MDCH's current Pharmaceutical Best Practices initiative, and will assure compliance with existing coverage policies.

The dose optimization edit notification will apply when:

- the beneficiary is on an established medication and dose for a chronic condition; and
- the medication is available in multiple strengths; and
- the pharmacologic characteristics and FDA licensure of the drug specify once daily dosing only.

The edits will apply to the following classes of medications:

- lipid lowering agents
- COX II inhibitors
- selected antidepressants

MDCH's Pharmacy Benefits Manager, First Health Services Corporation, will notify the pharmacist by electronic point of sale (POS) message when there appears to be multiple daily dosing of these medications. It will be the responsibility of the prescriber to obtain prior authorization if there is a clinical reason(s) why the prescribed drug needs to be administered more frequently than the manufacturer's recommended dosage.

The POS messages will begin as "informational" and be phased in to a status of a hard edit, i.e., the prescription for multiple daily doses will not be approved for payment without prior authorization having been obtained.

These measures are intended to foster appropriate medication use while capturing savings in the pharmaceutical budget line, based on specific pricing characteristics of some medications. Your assistance in working with the MDCH to assure pharmacy services are provided in the most clinically effective and cost efficient manner is appreciated.

If you have questions regarding this change, please contact the MDCH Pharmacy Benefits Manager at 1-877-864-9014.

Sincerely,

Paul Reinhart, Director  
Medical Services Administration

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