North Dakota Medicaid Pharmacy Program Quarterly News

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Welcome to the Winter 2011 edition of the "North Dakota Medicaid Pharmacy Program Quarterly News," a pharmacy newsletter presented by the North Dakota Department of Human Services and published by Health Information Designs, Inc. This newsletter is published as part of a continuing effort to keep the Medicaid provider community informed of important changes in the North Dakota Medicaid Pharmacy Program.

The North Dakota Department of Human Services has contracted with Health Information Designs, Inc. (HID) to review and process prior authorizations (PAs) for medications. For a current list of medications requiring a PA, as well as the necessary forms and criteria, visit www.hidndmedicaid.com, or call HID at (866) 773-0695 to have this information faxed. An important feature on this website is the NDC Drug Lookup. This allows you to determine if a specific NDC is covered (effective date), reimbursement amount, MAC pricing, copay information, and any limitations (prior authorization or quantity limits).

The Winter 2011 newsletter provides information regarding recent changes by the FDA. The FDA has asked manufacturers of prescription combination products that contain acetaminophen to limit the amount of acetaminophen to no more than 325mg in each tablet or capsule.

The North Dakota Medicaid Pharmacy Program team appreciates your comments and suggestions regarding this newsletter. To suggest topics for inclusion, or to make comments, please contact Health Information Designs, Inc. at (334) 502-3262, call toll free at 1-800-225-6998, or e-mail us at info@hidinc.com.

north dakota department of human services

Helpful Numbers

PA Help Desk	866-773-0695
To fax PAs	866-254-0761
To report adverse reactions	800-FDA-1088

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Visit HID's North Dakota Department of Human Services Prior Authorization Webpage, *www.hidndmedicaid.com.*

Changes for Acetaminophen-Containing Products

In June 2009, the safety of acetaminophen was discussed at a Joint Meeting of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Drug Safety and Risk Management Advisory Committee, Nonprescription Drugs Advisory Committee, and Anesthetic and Life Support Drugs Advisory Committee.

The Advisory Committee recommended, and the FDA is requesting, that drug manufacturers limit the amount of acetaminophen in prescription drug products to 325mg per tablet, capsule, or other dosage unit. It is expected that the higher-dose formulations will be phased out by 2014. In addition, a boxed warning detailing the potential for severe liver injury and a warning highlighting the potential for allergic reactions will be added to the label. OTC medications containing acetaminophen will not be affected by this action.

A number of studies have detailed the incidence of liver toxicity in patients using acetaminophen and clearly indicate reason for concern. A 2007 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report estimates that of 1600 cases of acute liver failure (ALF) each year, acetaminophen was the most common cause. This same study found that most of the cases of acetaminophen-related ALF were caused by unintentional overdose, where a patient accidentally took too much acetaminophen. It is the hope that by limiting the maximum amount of acetaminophen in prescription products, patients will be less likely to overdose.

Information for providers:

- Advise patients not to exceed the acetaminophen maximum total daily dose (4 grams/day)
- Severe liver injury, including cases of acute liver failure resulting in liver transplant and death, has been reported with the use of acetaminophen
- Advise patients not to drink alcohol while taking acetaminophen
- Remind patients of the importance of reading all prescription and OTC labels to ensure they are not taking multiple acetaminophen-containing products
- Rare cases of anaphylaxis and other hypersensitivity reactions have occurred with the use of acetaminophen
- Patients should seek medical attention immediately if they have taken too much acetaminophen or if they experience symptoms of hypersensitivity

References:

Changes for acetaminophen-containing prescription products. Pharmacist's Letter/Prescriber's Letter 2011;27 (2):270203.

Bower WA, Johns M, Margolis HS, et al. Population-based surveillance for acute liver failure. Am J Gastroenterol 2007;102:2459-63.

Food and Drug Administration drug safety communication concerning changes to prescription acetaminophen-containing products. January 13, 2011. www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/ucm239821. Accessed February 2011.

Acetaminophen-Containing Products Utilization		
ND Medicaid Combination APAP Utilization		
01/01/10 - 12/31/10		
Label Name	**Rx Num**	**Total Reimb Amt**
HYDROCODON-ACETAMINOPHEN 5-500	7,556	$71,691.91
HYDROCODON-ACETAMINOPHN 10-650	5,155	$55,112.85
OXYCODONE-ACETAMINOPHEN 5-325	4,370	$42,163.70
ACETAMINOPHEN-COD #3 TABLET	3,460	$95,415.66
HYDROCODON-ACETAMINOPHN 10-325	2,010	$86,541.77
HYDROCODON-ACETAMINOPHEN 5-325	1,623	$36,571.43
OXYCODONE-ACETAMINOPHEN 5-500	846	$9,683.67
HYDROCODON-ACETAMINOPH 7.5-500	814	$7,726.24
OXYCODONE-ACETAMINOPHEN 10-325	603	$21,457.44
HYDROCODON-ACETAMINOPHN 10-500	470	$9,013.59
HYDROCODON-ACETAMINOPH 7.5-750	297	$2,370.17
OXYCODONE-ACETAMINOPHEN 10-650	173	$4,793.92
HYDROCODON-ACETAMINOPH 7.5-325	114	$2,110.88
OXYCODON-ACETAMINOPHEN 7.5-500	109	$2,325.33
OXYCODON-ACETAMINOPHEN 7.5-325	98	$3,029.96
ACETAMINOPHEN-COD #2 TABLET	46	$430.16
HYDROCODON-ACETAMINOPH 7.5-650	33	$354.52
ACETAMINOPHEN-COD #4 TABLET	25	$512.84
HYDROCODON-ACETAMINOPHN 10-660	16	$352.39
HYDROCODON-ACETAMINOPH 2.5-500	12	$64.45
OXYCODON-ACETAMINOPHEN 2.5-325	3	$98.83
10,312 Recipients	**27,833**	**$451,821.71**
Note: 55.62% of current utilization has a dose of APAP that will be phased out by 2014.		

Health Information Designs, Inc. (HID) is the most experienced and qualified provider of drug utilization review and pharmacy support services in the country. We specialize in helping our clients promote clinically appropriate and cost-effective prescribing, dispensing, and utilization of prescription drugs.

For 33 years, HID has worked to improve the quality and cost effectiveness of health care through clinically rational use of prescription medication. Our clients include public and private healthcare plans throughout the U.S. with a combined total of over 14 million covered lives.

Health Information Designs, Inc. was founded in 1976 and is incorporated as a C Corporation in the State of Delaware. HID's initial mission was to market drug utilization review (DUR) services nationally and since its founding, has provided DUR services for clients in approximately two-thirds of the United States. HID is headquartered in Auburn, Alabama, with regional offices in Arkansas, Maryland, and Mississippi.

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