
North Dakota Medicaid Pharmacy Program Quarterly News

Published Quarterly by Health Information Designs, LLC

Welcome to 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, LLC. 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, LLC (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).

This newsletter provides information regarding the PROTECT Initiative towards advancing children’s medication safety. Also included is information about the safe disposal of needles and sharps.

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, LLC at (334) 502-3262, call toll free at 1-800-225-6998, or e-mail us at info@hidinc.com.



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.

The PROTECT Initiative

In 2008, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) organized a meeting to address the public health issue of medication overdoses in children. Current statistics from the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System-Cooperative Adverse Event Surveillance System (NEISS-CADES) show that children are especially vulnerable to unintentional overdoses:

- Over 70,000 emergency department (ED) visits result from unintentional medication overdoses among children under the age of 18.
- One out of every 180 two-year olds is treated in an ED for an unintentional medication overdose.
- Over 80% of ED visits among children under the age of 12 are due to unsupervised children taking medications on their own and 10% of ED visits in this age group are due to medication errors.
- Over-the-counter (OTC) medications are involved in approximately one-third of ED visits among children under the age of 12.

The goal of the program is to implement improvements in medication packaging, refine dosing measures, develop an educational campaign and address any unanswered questions that might prevent medication overdoses.

The members of the PROTECT Initiative are very diverse and include:

- Government Agencies
- Pharmaceutical and Medication Packaging Industries
- Non-profit Organizations
- Professional Organizations
- Academic Representatives

The members have developed four workgroups:

- Unsupervised Ingestions Workgroup
- Medication Errors Workgroup
- Education Workgroup
- Scientific Workgroup

To date, the PROTECT Initiative has:

- Fostered development of a Voluntary Guideline for standardizing and clarifying dosing measures for OTC liquid medicines.
- Fostered development of innovative safety packaging. Many leading non-prescription drug companies will be incorporating new product enhancements for pediatric liquid products by Fall 2011.

For more information about the PROTECT Initiative, contact medicationsafety@cdc.gov.

References:

1. Schillie SF, Shehab N, Thomas KE, et al. Medication overdoses leading to emergency department visits among children. *Am J Prev Med* 2009;37:181-7.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division of Health care Quality Promotion (DHQP). The PROTECT Initiative: Advancing Children's Medication Safety. www.cdc.gov/medicationsafety/protect/protect_initiative.html. Accessed 11/17/2011.

Safe Disposal of Needles and Sharps

In November 2011, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) launched a website for consumers regarding safe disposal of sharps (including needles, lancets, infusion sets and connection sets). Because of advances in medication therapy and management, there are approximately 9 million Americans who use needles or other sharps to manage their medical conditions at home. This amounts to more than 3 billion used sharps that must be disposed of outside a health care setting each year.

For safe disposal of sharps, the FDA recommends that consumers do the following;

- Immediately place used sharps in an FDA-approved sharps disposal container (the website has a list of products and companies that offer these types of containers). These containers are available in a variety of sizes, including smaller travel sizes to use while away from home.
- If an FDA-cleared container is not available, some associations and community guidelines recommend using a heavy-duty plastic household container, such as a plastic laundry detergent container, as an alternative. The container should be leak-resistant, remain upright during use and have a tight fitting, puncture-resistant lid. The sharps container should also be properly labeled to warn of hazardous waste inside.
- Sharps disposal containers should be kept out of reach of children and pets.
- Patients can contact local trash or public health department for more information regarding local sharps disposal programs. There may be a drop box, hazardous waste collection site, special waste pick-up services or mail-back programs. Some of these services may have an additional fee for proper disposal.

Patients should NEVER:

- Throw loose sharps into the trash.
- Flush sharps down the toilet.
- Put sharps in a recycling bin; they are not recyclable.
- Try to remove, bend, break or recap sharps used by another person.
- Attempt to remove a needle without a needle clipper device.

To visit the website, go to [www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/ProductsandMedicalProcedures/HomeHealthand Consumer/default.htm](http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/ProductsandMedicalProcedures/HomeHealthandConsumer/default.htm).

References:

FDA News Release: November 8, 2011. FDA launches website on safe disposal of used needles and other 'sharps'. Available at www.fda.gov. Accessed 11/18/11.



Health Information Designs, LLC 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.

Health Information Designs, LLC was founded in 1976 with a mission to improve patient care and contain costs for state Medicaid agencies by providing drug utilization review (DUR) services. In 1997, HID was acquired by HDI Solutions and subsequently has experienced strong and steady growth as a premium healthcare analytics and pharmacy support services provider. HID is the industry leader in providing comprehensive prescription drug monitoring programs. Currently, HID works with clients in 30 states, including 16 Medicaid agencies, 22 Boards of Pharmacy and state health agencies, and several private healthcare benefit management organizations. The work performed by HID has a daily impact on the healthcare of more than 115 million Americans.

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