

MassHealth Pharmacy Advisory Council
Meeting Notes from July 24th, 2007

1. Deficit Reduction Act – There may be some legislative relief with a possible increase in the dispensing fee. MassHealth will see the AMP as of the first week of November, as of the end of November the new FUL (Federal Upper Limit) will be available. CMS will be conducting and publishing a national retail drug pricing survey for states to use to potentially base their reimbursement structure on. It will be a weighted national average for 18,000 NDC's including mail order, retail, 3rd party and Medicaid but excluding nursing homes. The price will include the charge plus the dispensing fee but the co-pay will not be deducted.
2. Tamper Resistant Rx Pads – All Medicaid Rx's as of 10/1/07 must be written on a tamper resistant Rx blank (this may change as there is much to prepare for in a very short time frame). This does not include phone rx's, faxes are also most likely exempt. It is unclear at this time if this will include the Medicaid MCO's. It is also unclear how this affects rx's in which MassHealth is the secondary payer. There will be guidance issued which should answer many of these questions.
3. 90 Day Billing Limits – A question was posed to the group regarding how providers would feel about a change from the current 90 day billing limit for an initial claim to be filed to a 30 day limit. Adjustment could be done within a year as long as the initial claim is placed within the 30 days. Claims should not be reversed as that would set a new initial claim date that could be past the 30 day limit. Do an adjustment instead of a reversal. Providers could qualify for a waiver if the claim was reversed. (Perhaps a compromise that would work for home infusion would be 45 days as sometimes we are of the understanding that another insurer is involved and it could be over 30 days before we find out that the payer is MassHealth and then we would be over the 30 days filing limit if adopted - WL) Please give feedback to Paul Jeffrey.
4. Eloise Porterfield gave a brief discussion of the APAS program. APAS is a web based DME prior approval system. Eloise offered to come to any group that was interested in learning more about the system to describe the system and answer questions. (perhaps we could invite her to an upcoming NEMED meeting – WL)
5. ACS Update – ACS and MassHealth will be doing their annual training sessions again this fall. If anyone would like to suggest a topic to be covered, please contact Victor Moquin at ACS (you can also forward these to Bill Loomis at Baystate Home Infusion & Respiratory Services and I can forward to Victor).

Note – If a home infusion provider needs to bill 2 strengths of the same product for a MassHealth patient (example Gamunex 20g and Gamunex 5g for a 25g Gamunex dose) this will deny as a duplicate claim as the system does not look at all 11 digits of the NDC #. This should be billed on 2 separate days.

Respectfully submitted by: William Loomis, B.S., R.Ph.

Pharmacy Manager

Baystate Home Infusion & Respiratory Services