



Community Care of North Carolina

June 4, 2007

Starting June 1, 2007 brand name **Proton Pump Inhibitors** were placed on the North Carolina Medicaid Outpatient Pharmacy Program prior authorization (PA) list. To ease the transition to the Proton Pump Inhibitor prior authorization, Community Care of North Carolina (CCNC) Network Pharmacists, Pharmacy Interns, and Nurse Case Managers will be visiting retail pharmacies throughout the next several weeks to provide educational materials and answer any questions you may have.

You may also begin receiving forms entitled **MD Easy™ form for “Instant Approval”**. CCNC provides primary care case management services to roughly 800,000, or 75%, of all Medicaid recipients. Therefore, to avoid an interruption in your patient’s medication therapy, help community providers transition their patients to meet DMA requirements, and ease the PA burden for pharmacies, Community Care of North Carolina provided their practices with a list of patients who were to be affected by the PPI prior authorization. Once the prescriber completes, signs, and faxes the **MD Easy™ form for “Instant Approval”** to the pharmacy **it becomes the patient’s legal prescription** if option 1 or 2 is selected and the appropriate criteria is met.

Suggestions to Help Pharmacies Comply and Manage the PPI PA

- Become familiar with PPI PA procedures and the corresponding overrides that are allowed at the point of sale by pharmacies. Instant approval overrides will be audited for compliance and **are subject to recoupment**. An electronic version of the criteria can be found on <http://www.ncmedicaidpbm.com>.
- With the implementation of this policy the number of **prescriptions for Omeprazole 40mg and OTC Prilosec 40mg is expected to dramatically increase**. Pharmacies may want to consider ordering additional quantities of Omeprazole 20mg capsules or OTC Prilosec 20mg tablets to meet the needs of their Medicaid patients and prevent gaps in therapy.
- The North Carolina Board of Pharmacy along with the Division of Medical Assistance, recently released the following joint statement:
“...the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy and the North Carolina Division of Medical Assistance would like to notify pharmacists that prescriptions for brand name Prilosec 40mg may be substituted with the equivalent dose of generic omeprazole 20mg.” (See <http://www.ncbop.org> for full article)
- When switching the patient’s therapy to another PPI **please alert the patient of the change**. Patients being switched during this phase of the PA process may not be aware of the new DMA policy.

Community Care of North Carolina hopes that you find our educational efforts valuable and helpful when serving your Medicaid patients. If you have any questions, I’ll be happy to forward your questions or concerns to the Community Care of North Carolina pharmacist assigned to your area.

Sincerely,

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