



MARYLAND MEDICAID PHARMACY PROGRAM

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ADVISORY

*In an effort to give timely notice to the pharmacy community concerning important pharmacy topics, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's (DHMH) **Maryland Medicaid Pharmacy Program (MMPP)** has developed the **Maryland Medicaid Pharmacy Program Advisory**. To expedite information timely to the pharmacy and prescriber communities, an email network has been established which incorporates the email lists of the Maryland Pharmacists Association, EPIC, CARE, Long Term Care Consultants, headquarters of all chain drugstores and prescriber associations and organizations. It is our hope that the information is disseminated to all interested parties. If you have not received this email through any of the previously noted parties or via DHMH, please contact the MMPP representative at 410-767-1455.*

Corrective Managed Care Program and Misuse of Controlled Substances

The Corrective Managed Care (CMC) Program is an ongoing effort by the Maryland Medicaid Pharmacy Program (MMPP) to monitor and promote appropriate use of controlled substances. The CMC program is particularly concerned with appropriate utilization of opioids and benzodiazepines. Through a monthly review of individual recipient drug and diagnosis history profiles the MMPP identifies Maryland Medicaid recipients who appear to be receiving duplicate controlled drug therapy, visiting multiple prescribers and/or patronizing multiple pharmacies to obtain controlled substances.

The CMC program shares this information about potential drug misuse with prescribers and pharmacy providers. Physicians and pharmacies are sent educational intervention letters along with a response form to indicate any action taken. If, despite the best efforts of the prescriber and pharmacist, there still continues to be overutilization or perceived misuse of a controlled substance by a recipient, a recipient can be "locked-in" or restricted to one pharmacy for coverage of medications paid fee-for-service by the MMPP. Under a lock-in pharmacy agreement, the recipient will be required to fill prescriptions for all medications paid fee-for-service at one predetermined pharmacy.

Medicaid recipients may ask to pay cash for prescriptions of controlled substances when Medicaid has denied the claim because a recipient is locked into a specific pharmacy, the refill is too soon, and/or a therapeutic duplication exists. Medicaid patients should not be paying cash for any prescriptions under normal circumstances, especially prescriptions for controlled substances. Recipients insisting to pay cash for prescriptions for controlled substances should be referred to the Medicaid recipient fraud and abuse department.

Report Concerns:

CMC Lock-In Referral

410-767-1455

Office of the Inspector General Recipient Fraud/Abuse Hotline

1-866-770-7175

www.dhmh.state.md.us/oig