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# North Dakota Medicaid Pharmacy Program Quarterly News

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Fall 2007

Welcome to the Fall 2007 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, go to [www.hidndmedicaid.com](http://www.hidndmedicaid.com), or call HID at (866) 773-0695 to have this information faxed. A feature on the website is the NDC Drug Lookup. This will allow you to determine if an NDC is covered (effective date), price allowed and MAC pricing, copay information, and any limitations (prior authorization or quantity limits).

The Fall 2007 newsletter focuses on respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) as well as important information regarding tamper resistant prescription pads.

The North Dakota 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 or toll free at 1-800-225-6998, or email us at [info@hidinc.com](mailto:info@hidinc.com).



### Helpful Numbers

PA Help Desk                    866-773-0695  
To fax PAs                        866-254-0761  
To report adverse                800-FDA-1088  
reactions (via Med Watch)

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**Visit HID's North Dakota Department of Human Services Prior Authorization Webpage, [www.hidndmedicaid.com](http://www.hidndmedicaid.com).**

## **Respiratory Syncytial Virus Synagis Registration Process**

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a virus that causes infections in the lungs and respiratory tract. In adults and older healthy children, the symptoms of respiratory syncytial virus are mild and typically mimic the common cold. Infections can be severe in some cases, especially in premature neonates and infants with underlying health conditions. RSV can also become serious in older adults and adults with heart and lung diseases. Each year, up to 125,000 infants in the United States are hospitalized with severe RSV.

Underlying conditions such as congenital heart disease, chronic lung disease of prematurity, and T-cell immunodeficiency, along with prematurity alone are associated with more severe forms of RSV in infants. Other conditions that may increase an infant's infection severity include children with tracheotomies, cystic fibrosis, neurologic devastation, and muscular weakness. Severe forms of RSV can lead to hospitalization, the need for intensive care, mechanical ventilation, or death.

Signs and symptoms typically appear four to six days after exposure to the virus. Adults and children older than 3 usually experience cold-like symptoms associated with mild discomfort. Children younger than 3 may experience more severe symptoms such as high fever, severe cough, wheezing, tachypnea, difficulty breathing, and bluish color due to lack of oxygen.

RSV is spread easily by direct contact with an infected person or the surface of contaminated objects. Infection can occur when the virus comes in contact with the mucous membranes of the eyes, mouth, or nose, and possibly through the inhalation of respiratory droplets. RSV is unstable in the environment and only survives for a few hours on external surfaces and is readily inactivated by soap and water and disinfectants.

Prevention is very important when considering RSV outbreaks. Outbreaks usually occur annually, typically during the late fall, winter, or early spring months. Focus on prevention includes frequent hand washing, avoiding exposure, keeping things clean, not smoking and preventing the sharing of cups, glasses, and utensils.

The medication Synagis can help protect children under the age of 2 who are at high risk of serious complications when they get RSV, such as those born prematurely or with congenital heart or lung disease. North Dakota Medicaid follows the American Academy of Pediatrics Guidelines to determine which children should receive Synagis. A registration process allows providers to submit the following information (via fax) to Brendan Joyce at 701-328-1544:

- Patient Name
- Date of Birth
- Medicaid ID #
- Gestational age (e.g. 34 4/7 weeks)
- AAP risk factors

### Reference:

Mayo-Clinic.com [homepage on the Internet]. Respiratory syncytial virus. Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research. c1998-2007 [updated 2007 Aug 1; cited 2007 Aug 9]. Available from: <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/respiratory-syncytial-virus/DS00414/DSECTION=1>.

## Use of Tamper-Resistant Prescription Pads

***Beginning April 1, 2008, CMS will require all Medicaid prescriptions to be written on tamper-resistant blanks.***

On May 25, 2007, the US Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act of 2007 was signed into law. Included in this law was the stipulation that all written (non-electronic) Medicaid prescriptions must be executed on a tamper-resistant pad to be eligible for payment.

- The tamper resistant pad requirement applies to all outpatient drugs, including over-the-counter drugs.
- Drugs provided in nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded, and other specified institutional and clinical settings are ***not*** subject to this requirement.
- The tamper-resistant pad requirement does ***not*** apply to refills of written prescriptions presented at the pharmacy before April 1, 2008.
- The payment limitation does ***not*** apply to e-prescriptions transmitted to the pharmacy, prescriptions faxed to the pharmacy, or prescriptions communicated to the pharmacy by telephone by a prescriber.
- This legislation does ***not*** restrict emergency fills of non-controlled or controlled substances for which prescriber provides the pharmacy with a verbal, faxed, electronic, or compliant written prescription within 72 hours after the date on which the prescription was filled.

To be considered tamper resistant on April 1, 2008, a prescription pad must contain at least **one** of the following **three** characteristics:

1. one or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent unauthorized copying of a completed or blank prescription form;
2. one or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent the erasure or modification of information written on the prescription by the prescriber;
3. one or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent the use of counterfeit prescription forms.

No later than October 1, 2008, to be considered tamper resistant, a prescription pad must contain all three characteristics.



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

For 30 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 health care plans throughout the U.S. with a combined total of over 11 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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