
North Dakota Medicaid Pharmacy Program Quarterly News

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Winter 2010

Welcome to the Winter 2010 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, 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).

The Winter 2010 newsletter provides information regarding recent Durable Medical Equipment (DME) updates with instructions on how to access the updated version of the purchase and rental fee schedule. Pharmacy updates for this newsletter include acetaminophen dosing, tamper-resistant prescription pads, and the top 15 therapeutic classes by total cost of claims.

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, 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.

DME Updates

ATTENTION DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT (DME) PROVIDERS AND PHARMACIES THAT BILL DME

An updated version of the DME Purchase and Rental Fee Schedule* has been posted to the department's website (<http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/medicalserv/medicaid/provider-durable.html>) along with a memo indicating what HCPCS have been added and/or deleted from the file.

**When referring to the fee schedules on the department website, be sure to use the Durable Medical Equipment Purchase and/or Rental Fee Schedule as a reference and not the basic fee schedule for all DME supplies and/or equipment. Please direct all DME questions to DHS at 701-328-2321.*

Modifiers Added

- RA—Replacement of a DME item due to loss, irreparable damage, or when the item has been stolen.
- RB—Replacement of a part of DME furnished as part of a repair.

DME Reminder

Durable medical equipment providers should remember to check the current Health Care Professional Coding System (HCPCS) book for code descriptions and what constitutes one (1) unit. One example is “A4253—blood glucose test or reagent strips for home blood glucose monitor, per 50 strips.” Fifty strips would equal one unit of service. Another example is “E0973—wheelchair accessory, adjustable height, detachable armrest, complete assembly, each.” One arm rest equals one unit so if you dispense a right and a left armrest you should be requesting two units of service.

Coding Regulations

Providers need to ensure they are following correct coding requirements to avoid potential billing errors. Providers can determine the appropriateness of coding by checking the current HCPCS book to ensure the services provided meet the full definition of the codes that are billed on claims or submitted on prior authorizations submitted to Medicaid. Medicaid staff will not provide billing codes to providers.

Donation of DME Equipment

The Department of Human Services encourages families to consider donation of their durable medical equipment when and if that equipment is no longer in use or medically necessary. Please contact one of the agencies below for additional information regarding equipment donation.

North Dakota Association for the Disabled (NDAD)	1-800-532-6323
Project Hero	1-218-284-6111
North Dakota Developmental Center	1-701-352-4501 1-800-252-4911
Easter Seals Goodwill	1-701-232-1333 1-701-237-9908

Medicaid Pharmacy Update

Acetaminophen Dosing

Edits have been implemented that prevent patients from receiving greater than 4 grams of acetaminophen per day. Quantity limits already existed on each of these drugs individually, but did not address the issue of patients taking more than one agent with acetaminophen.

Tamper-Resistant Prescription Pads*

On October 1, 2008, prescription pads were required to contain three characteristics to be considered tamper-resistant.

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 pad by the prescriber; and
3. One or more industry recognized features designed to prevent the use of counterfeit prescription forms.

What to do if you are not sure if a prescription meets the requirements:

1. Call the prescribing practitioner to obtain verbal confirmation of the prescription and document the confirmation appropriately.
2. Fill the prescription and obtain documentation within 72 hours. Documentation may be in the form of a written prescription on a tamper-resistant pad, verbal communication with the prescriber, facsimile, or e-prescription.

***Primary responsibility for ensuring compliance with requirements of section 7002(b) rests with the States. However, there are some circumstances in which CMS, the Office of the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, or some other Federal agency may have occasion to audit a pharmacy provider. When that occurs, the Federal agency will have authority to determine compliance.**

Top 15 Therapeutic Classes by Total Cost of Claims-3rd Quarter 2009

AHFS Therapeutic Class	Rx	Paid	Paid/Rx	% Total Claims
ANTIPSYCHOTIC AGENTS	5,362	\$ 1,294,238.79	\$ 241.37	3.67%
ANTIDEPRESSANTS	12,163	\$ 527,436.82	\$ 43.36	8.33%
ANOREX.,RESPIR.,CEREBRAL STIMULANTS,MISC	4,638	\$ 457,962.06	\$ 98.74	3.18%
ANTICONVULSANTS, MISCELLANEOUS	6,408	\$ 451,758.54	\$ 70.50	4.39%
BETA-ADRENERGIC AGONISTS	5,051	\$ 373,611.78	\$ 73.97	3.46%
INSULINS	1,885	\$ 329,824.82	\$ 174.97	1.29%
AMPHETAMINES	3,198	\$ 326,804.40	\$ 102.19	2.19%
OPIATE AGONISTS	11,623	\$ 302,255.11	\$ 26.00	7.96%
LEUKOTRIENE MODIFIERS	1,920	\$ 208,992.58	\$ 108.85	1.32%
ADRENALS	2,926	\$ 202,932.94	\$ 69.36	2.00%
HEMOSTATICS	25	\$ 191,879.91	\$ 7,675.20	0.02%
PROTON-PUMP INHIBITORS	3,222	\$ 158,477.11	\$ 49.19	2.21%
DISEASE-MODIFYING ANTIRHEUMATIC AGENTS	87	\$ 149,235.48	\$ 1,715.35	0.06%
CONTRACEPTIVES	3,328	\$ 145,553.84	\$ 43.74	2.28%
BIOLOGIC RESPONSE MODIFIERS	56	\$ 141,527.85	\$ 2,527.28	0.04%
TOTAL TOP 15	61,892	\$ 5,262,492.03	\$ 85.03	42.40%



Health Information Designs, Inc. (HID) 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.

For 33 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 healthcare plans throughout the U.S. with a combined total of over 14 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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