

South Carolina
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Post Office Box 8206
Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8206
www.scdhhs.gov
January 11, 2010

Phys
MC
Hosp
Med Clin
MHRC
Pharm

MEDICAID BULLETIN

TO: Providers Indicated

SUBJECT: Appropriate Utilization of Antipsychotic Medications for Children 6 (Six) Years of Age and Younger

In an effort to ensure against the improper use of antipsychotics in children, South Carolina Medicaid will require clinical evaluation for all prescriptions for antipsychotics prescribed for children 6 years of age and younger. Effective with dates of service on or after February 10, 2010, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) will require prior authorization (PA) for prescriptions for antipsychotic medications for children 6 years of age and younger. This effort will ensure that these medications are being used in a manner that is consistent with federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved indications or supported by recognized compendia or peer reviewed literature as specified in 42 USC §1396r-8(g).

However, to ensure continuity of care, beneficiaries 6 years of age and younger who are presently taking an antipsychotic medication will be able to continue the same therapy without interruption. In addition, claims submitted by pharmacies with an ICD-9 code that corresponds with an FDA-approved indication for the beneficiary's age will bypass the PA requirement. To facilitate the review, the ICD-9 code and any supporting information should be referenced by the prescriber on the face of the prescription or communicated to the pharmacy in some other manner so that it is available to the pharmacy provider for point-of-sale claim processing.

SCDHHS is making this adjustment within the scope of SFY 2010 Proviso 21.23 which states that operational procedures necessary to ensure the appropriate use and prevent the non-FDA approved use of these drugs will be allowed.

All PA requests should be submitted via WebPA, telephone, or fax to the First Health Clinical Call Center by the prescriber or the prescriber's designated office personnel. To access the WebPA tool, visit <http://southcarolina.fhsc.com>, click on "Prescribers", then "WebPA". New users will need to click on "UAC" in the right hand corner to request a user id and password. The toll-free telephone and fax numbers for the Clinical Call Center are 866-247-1181 and 888-603-7696, respectively. The First Health Clinical Call Center telephone number is reserved for use by healthcare professionals and should not be provided to beneficiaries. (First Health's South Carolina Medicaid **beneficiary call center** telephone number for Pharmacy Services is 800-834-2680. Providers may furnish the beneficiary call center telephone number to Medicaid beneficiaries *for Pharmacy Services-related issues only*.)

A pharmacy claim submitted for a PA-required product that has not been approved for Medicaid reimbursement will reject. If this occurs, the pharmacist should contact the prescriber so that a determination can be made regarding whether a drug *not* requiring PA is clinically appropriate for the patient.

If you have any questions regarding this bulletin or any other Medicaid billing or policy questions, please contact your Program Representative at (803) 898-2876. Thank you for your continued support and participation in the South Carolina Medicaid program.

/S/
Emma Forkner
Director

EF/mgbd

NOTE: To receive Medicaid bulletins by email, please register at <http://bulletin.scdhhs.gov/>.
To sign up for Electronic funds Transfer of your Medicaid payment, please go to:
<http://www.dhhs.state.sc.us/dhhsnew/hipaa/index.asp> and select "Electronic funds Transfer (EFT)" for instructions.