The Bulletin of Medicaid Drug Utilization Review (DUR) in Ohio FFS

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**DUR Professional Staff**
- Change Healthcare Clinical Pharmacist
- Gail Master, R.Ph.

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**Introduction to Change Healthcare**

Change Healthcare is the pharmacy benefit administrator for the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM). Our role is to manage and coordinate the Ohio Medicaid Fee-for-Service (FFS) claims processing and prior authorization determination activity. Change Healthcare is also delegated to administer the Retrospective Drug Utilization Review (DUR) program for the Ohio Medicaid FFS population.

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**Keppra (Levetiracetam) Above 3,000 Milligrams (mg) Per Day**

**Purpose**
The manufacturer recommended dose of levetiracetam is 3,000mg/day and 60 mg/kg/day in adults and pediatric patients, respectively. Prescribers are being asked to provide a diagnosis code and clinical rationale for exceeding this dose.

**Intervention Criteria**
Members exceeding 3,000mg/day of levetiracetam were identified using pharmacy claim data. Calls were made to prescribers to obtain rationale for using higher doses, but the response was minimal.

**Intervention Goals**
The goal of this intervention is to gather clinical information from prescribers whose patients are utilizing levetiracetam above the manufacturers recommended dose. The information provided will help ODM determine if quantity limits should be placed on levetiracetam pharmacy claims. Doses exceeding these quantity limits would require prior authorization.

**Background and Standards of Clinical Practice**
According to the package insert of levetiracetam, increasing dosages have not been correlated with an increased response to the medication. The maximum recommended dosage of levetiracetam is 60mg/kg/day for children and 3,000mg/day for adults.
Long Term Use of Muscle Relaxants

Purpose
Evidence shows treatment with skeletal muscle relaxants should be limited to two to three weeks. Common side effects for these medications include drowsiness, dizziness and dry mouth.

Intervention Criteria
Members taking muscle relaxants for 90 days or greater. Members were identified using pharmacy claims.

Intervention Goals
The goal of this intervention is to make prescribers aware that muscle relaxants are not indicated for long-term use and to ensure appropriate treatment options are being used.

Background and Standards of Clinical Practice
Skeletal muscle relaxants are indicated for short-term use; therefore, multiple modalities including nonpharmacological methods may be warranted to prevent chronic use of these medications.

Nonpharmacological Treatment
- Motor control exercise
- Heat
- Massage
- Physical therapy
- Acupuncture
- Spinal manipulation
- Mindfulness-based stress reduction
- Yoga
- Progressive relaxation

FDA Drug Safety Communication

July 10, 2018 The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is strengthening the current warnings that fluoroquinolone antibiotics may cause 1) significant decreases in blood sugar and 2) increases in certain mental health side effects. Low blood sugar levels may result in serious problems, including coma, particularly in older people and patients with diabetes who are taking medications to reduce blood sugar.
Across the fluoroquinolone antibiotic class, a range of mental health side effects are already described under Central Nervous System Effects in the Warnings and Precautions section of the drug label, which differed by individual drug. The new label changes will make the mental health side effects more prominent and consistent across the fluoroquinolone drug class. The mental health side effects to be added or updated across all fluoroquinolones include: disturbances in attention, disorientation, agitation, nervousness, memory impairment, and delirium.

References

NEW PREFERRED DRUGS

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<tr>
<th>THERAPEUTIC CLASS</th>
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<td>Central Nervous System (CNS) Agents: Parkinson's Agents</td>
<td>amantadine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infectious Disease Agents: Antivirals - HIV</td>
<td>Biktarvy® (bictegravir, emtricitabine, tenofovir alafenamide fumarate) SymbriLo™(elvirez, lamivudine, tenofovir disoproxil fumarate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ophthalmic Agents: Glaucoma Agents</td>
<td>Rhopressa ® (netarsudil)</td>
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NEW NON-PREFERRED DRUGS

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<tr>
<td>Central Nervous System (CNS) Agents: Parkinson’s Agents</td>
<td>Gocovri™ (amantadine ER)</td>
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<td>Endocrine Agents: Diabetes-Oral Hypoglycemics</td>
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<td>Endocrine Agents: Diabetes-Oral Hypoglycemics</td>
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