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Pharmacy Providers

Medicare Part D Emergency Coverage

In response to inappropriate denials of medically necessary medication, Governor Sebelius has ordered Kansas Medical Assistance Program (KMAP) to begin paying for prescriptions for dual eligible Medicaid beneficiaries who are incorrectly enrolled in Prescription Drug Plans (PDP) or being charged higher than required cost sharing. This is a temporary response to the problems experienced with verifying eligibility through CMS and the Prescription Drug Plans, charging Dual Eligible beneficiaries excessive copays and deductibles, and receiving timely customer service.

Pharmacists must make every attempt to first obtain payment from the PDP before KMAP is billed for prescriptions. The State of Kansas is committing state funds to cover the cost of prescriptions without a guarantee of reimbursement from the Federal Government. KMAP will monitor daily the utilization of this mechanism to ensure that it is used only as a last resort to prevent Kansans from missing medically necessary medications.

Effective January 13, 2006, the MMIS pharmacy point of sale system will be changed to allow pharmacies to bill KMAP for dual eligible beneficiaries who are not recognized appropriately by the CMS system and whose claims are not being paid appropriately. This emergency mechanism only should be used when a beneficiary is at risk of leaving the pharmacy without medically necessary medications because of:

- Inaccurate or inaccessible eligibility information held by the PDP,
- Inaccurate copays, deductibles, or cost sharing charged by the PDP based on the beneficiaries status as a dual eligible, or
- Lack of response from the Wellpoint or Ztech systems for dual eligible beneficiaries that are not enrolled in a PDP.

All of the KMAP pricing methodologies, prior authorization requirements, and limitations will apply for these drugs and beneficiaries as they did prior to January 1, 2006.

If the pharmacy uses this option, Medicare and the PDP should not be billed. This change is not intended to supplement a payment received from Medicare or a PDP.

This temporary change will be reevaluated again before February 1, 2006. The continuation of this policy will depend on CMS's progress in resolving issues of access to prescription drugs for dual eligible Medicaid beneficiaries.

Information about the Kansas Medical Assistance Program as well as provider manuals and other publications are on the KMAP Web site at <https://www.kmap-state-ks.us>.

For a hard copy of the revised manual pages, send a request to Publications Coordinator, 3600 SW Topeka Blvd, Suite 204, Topeka, KS 66611 or send an e-mail to publications@ksxix.hcg.eds.com. Specify the bulletin by number, provider type and date, and include your mailing address with a specified individual or office if possible.

If you have any questions, please contact the KMAP Customer Service Center at 1-800-933-6593 (in-state providers) or 785-274-5990 between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.