

Government of the District of Columbia
Department of Health
Medical Assistance Administration
825 North Capitol St. NE
Washington DC, 20002

March 14, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Medicaid Providers with Prescribing Authority and Pharmacy Providers

FROM: Carolyn Rachel-Price, R.Ph., Senior Pharmacist, MAA

SUBJECT: District of Columbia Fee-for-Service Medicaid Preferred Drug List (PDL)

The Medical Assistance Administration (MAA) is moving ahead with the implementation of the Medicaid Fee-for-Service PDL developed with the assistance of First Health Services Corporation.

On March 1, 2007, the District of Columbia (DC) Medicaid Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee reviewed six drug categories for inclusion on the DC PDL. Recommendations for preferred and non-preferred drugs were made and final approval of these recommendations was granted by the DC Senior Deputy Director of Medicaid, Robert Maruca.

First Health will be sending a report to prescribers and pharmacies indicating which Medicaid recipients have recently received non-preferred agents. These reports will help prescribers and pharmacies identify patients on non-preferred drugs such that providers and pharmacies may be proactive in switching to preferred agents or submitting the necessary prior authorizations prior to the hard edit implementation.

Attached is a list of drug categories reviewed at the March 1, 2007 P&T meeting. Additionally, the dates of implementation, a copy of standard prior authorization (PA) criteria, and a standard PA Request fax form is included for your reference. A quick contact list is also provided within.

The PDL will continue to evolve as additional drug classes are reviewed. Communications will continue to inform prescribers and pharmacies of any changes. The next scheduled P&T Committee meeting is April 6, 2007.

For additional information regarding the District's PDL Program and for a listing of preferred and non-preferred agents, please visit the web at <http://dc.fhsc.com>. Prescribers / pharmacies can submit PA requests beginning April 3, 2007, by faxing to First Health at **(800) 250-6950**.

The First Health Clinical Call Center can be reached at telephone number **(800) 273-4962** to answer PDL prior authorization questions. For policy questions, please contact the DC Medical Assistance Administration at (202) 442-9078 or (202) 442-9076.

We appreciate your efforts to help us provide cost effective and safe drug therapy for District of Columbia Medicaid recipients. Institution of the Preferred Drug List will help the Department maintain quality and cost-effectiveness in its pharmacy benefit program.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PDL CONTACT LIST

Issue	Contact	General Comments
<p>For more details regarding the District's Preferred Drug List please visit the following</p>	<p>http://dc.fhsc.com.</p>	<p>Website lists all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memoranda mailed to providers, prescribers and recipients • Meeting Agendas and Minutes • PDL listing • Additional educational materials
<p>District of Columbia Medicaid program, general information</p>	<p>http://doh.dc.gov</p>	<p>Website contains the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PDL listing • General DC Medicaid information
<p>First Health fax number for Prior Authorizations</p>	<p>Fax: (800) 250-6950</p>	
<p>Questions regarding specific PA requirements should be directed to First Health Call Center</p>	<p>Tel: (800) 273-4962</p>	
<p>Policy questions</p>	<p>District of Columbia MAA</p> <p>Carolyn Price, R.Ph Tel: (202) 442-9078</p> <p>Charlene Fairfax, R.Ph Tel: (202) 442-9076</p>	