

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



LILLIAN B. KOLLER, ESQ.
DIRECTOR

HENRY OLIVA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Med-QUEST Division
Administration
P. O. Box 700190
Kapolei, Hawaii 96709-0190

In reply, please refer to:

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Governor's Referral No.:

January 9, 2004

MEMORANDUM

ACS M04-01

TO: Medicaid Providers (Medicaid Fee-For-Service Program)

FROM: Aileen Hiramatsu, Med-QUEST Division Administrator */s/ ap for ah*

SUBJECT: DELAYED IMPLEMENTATION FOR PDL AND ENHANCED PRIOR AUTHORIZATION PHASE I DRUGS FROM JANUARY 15, 2004 TO FEBRUARY 17, 2004

This notice is to inform you that the Department has decided to delay implementation of the Preferred Drug List (PDL) and Enhanced Prior Authorization (EPA) List for the Phase I drugs identified in a memo dated December 9, 2003, until February 17, 2004. You were previously informed that the Phase I of the PDL and EPA list was scheduled for implementation on January 15, 2004.

Although the Department is making a concerted effort to reach and fully inform all Medicaid prescribers and pharmacies of the PDL and EPA list, the Department wants to accommodate the recommendation of the Hawaii Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee to delay implementation until February 2004, given the absences of providers and recipients during the holidays in December 2003 and January 2004.

The Department has taken, to date, these and other active measures to prepare providers and recipients for implementation:

- The Department mailed on December 9, 2003 a list of the Phase I preferred drugs and those that will be placed on the EPA list.

- On December 19, 2003 the Department mailed to all prescribers a list of his/her patients who are currently on drugs that will require prior authorization. A separate patient list by prescriber was also sent to the pharmacies on December 31, 2003. The intent of the lists was to enable prescribers and pharmacists to work together to either change prescriptions or to submit the necessary prior authorization request(s) before implementation of the Phase I PDL and EPA list.
- Shortly after the lists were distributed, ACS State Healthcare (ACS), the Department's pharmacy fiscal agent, began telephoning prescribers with a high number of recipients on drugs that would require prior authorization. These phone calls serve as a reminder for prescribers to review the list of patients and drugs, and to answer any specific questions related to the drugs and/or the prior authorization process. This assistance is continuing.
- In early January ACS and Department personnel also provided training on all major islands (Oahu, Maui, Hawaii and Kauai) to explain the drug selection processes, the stakeholders involved, and the process for obtaining prior authorizations.
- Finally, the Department is currently in the process of contracting with the Hawaii Pharmacist Association and Hawaii Medical Association to provide additional individual assistance to prescribers and pharmacists.

Although the Department has taken as much time and action as necessary to fully inform all affected providers of the implementation of the Phase I PDL and EPA list, the Department still wishes to afford a little extra time for providers and recipients to prepare themselves due to the recent holiday absences. The Department has, thus, decided to provide additional time to further inform and educate the prescribers and pharmacies of the upcoming implementation.

To this end, the Department will **delay implementation to February 17, 2004**. Please review material on the websites (www.med-quest.us and www.himed-questffs.org) or contact ACS at 1-877-439-0803 for more information.

As a reminder, the HMG CoA Reductase Inhibitors class will not be included in the Phase I February 17, 2004 implementation. This drug class will be re-reviewed by the Hawaii Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee at the Phase II February 10, 2004 meeting.

Thank you for your participation in the Medicaid Fee-for-Service Program. We appreciate your continued commitment to improving the health and well being of our recipients.