



December 20, 2005

To: Physicians and Pharmacists

From: Provider Services Department

IMPORTANT UPDATE

This important update is to clarify information sent out to Medi-Cal beneficiaries about the new Medicare Part D Program and the Prescription Drug Plan (PDP). Dual-eligible members (those individuals who have both Medicare and Medi-Cal coverage), will have their Medi-Cal covered drugs discontinued once Medicare begins covering those costs on January 1, 2006. Medi-Cal beneficiaries were recently sent a Medi-Cal NOTICE OF ACTION – Reduction of Benefits Notice which included a list of medications that will continue to be covered by Medi-Cal. **This notice also stated that Medi-Cal would pay for a 100-day supply of the Medi-Cal covered prescription drugs if the prescription from the physician was filled by the pharmacy on or before December 31, 2005; however, that information is incorrect.** The Health Authority will NOT pay for a 100-day supply of prescription drugs.

Members should not experience any difficulty in obtaining medications they are currently using that will need to be refilled before December 31, 2005; however, members will be unable to refill those same prescriptions prior to the 31st if they are not already scheduled to be refilled. After January 1, 2006, Members are being advised to take the letter they received from the Department of Health & Human Services indicating the name of their Medicare PDP with them to the pharmacy until they receive their Medicare Drug Plan ID card.

There has been a lot of confusion surrounding Medicare Part D, and on the part of the Health Authority, we are doing our best to clarify the situation as well as our role in the process. After January 1, 2006, we are no longer responsible for the outpatient drug benefit of dual-eligible members as mandated by the federal government through this new drug reform. For basic questions regarding this notice, you may contact Jennifer Fraser, Provider Services Representative, at extension 281. Members are advised to contact their Customer Service Representative at their PDP indicated on their letter from the Department of Health & Human Services or the Health Insurance Counseling Advocacy Program (HICAP) at (800) 434-0222 should they have any questions.