

Healthy Practices will continue to inform your office about new and updated policies. MVP encourages your office to look at all of the revisions and updates on a regular basis in the Benefit Interpretation Manual (BIM) located on www.mvphealthcare.com in the References section. The update section will list new policies and/or policy revisions at least 30 days prior to their effective date.

Reporting Medication Adverse Events

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is responsible for protecting the public health by assuring the safety, efficacy, and security of marketed medical products, such as drugs and medical devices (*including OTCs and dietary supplements*). In order to perform ongoing safety surveillance of medical products, the FDA relies on the voluntary reporting of serious adverse events, product quality problems and product use errors. MedWatch is the FDA program for reporting serious problems that may be associated with drugs and medical devices. *You may report adverse events and product problems to MedWatch by calling 1-800-FDA-1088, by submitting the MedWatch form by mail or fax, or by going online to the FDA Web page.* Additional information and MedWatch forms are available at the FDA MedWatch Web page <http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/>.

Headache Therapy

- Effective April 1, 2009, non-formulary medications to treat migraine headaches (Imitrex[®], Zomig[®], Amerge[®], Axert[®], Frova[®], and Treximet[®]) will require prior authorization.
- Covered formulary medications, subject to quantity limitations, will be sumatriptan, Maxalt/MLT[®], and Relpax[®].

Pain Medication

- Language to support titration of long-acting opioids to maximize around-the-clock dose and minimize “as needed” dosing for oral fentanyl products was added.

Select Hypnotics

- Language added to exclude hypnotics for the indication of anxiety and for ages that fall outside of the FDA approved range.

Weight Loss

- Language was added requiring compliance with diet, exercise and medication use for extension of therapy.

Medications removed from prior authorization

Pristiq[®], Patanase[®] and Relistor[®] no longer require prior authorization.

FDA News

Over the past months, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued important medication warnings, withdrawals and requests for product labeling changes. Highlights of FDA activities include:

- On October 29, 2008, the FDA issued a Warning Letter to Aerosol Science Laboratories Inc. advising them that their website contained false and misleading claims for compounded aerosol medications, including antibiotics, anti-fungals, anti-inflammatories and mucolytics used with the Sinus Science Aerosol Medication Delivery System.

- In November and December 2008, the FDA recalled several brands of over-the-counter dietary supplements sold as weight loss pills because they contained undeclared ingredients like bumetanide, sibutramine, phenytoin and others.

Formulary Update for Commercial (non-Medicare Part D) Members

The MVP Formulary is updated after each Pharmacy and Therapeutics committee meeting. The most current version is available online at www.mvphealthcare.com. Simply log on to the Provider section of the site and click on Rx Formulary in the navigation bar located on the left. The MVP Formulary can be downloaded to a PDA device from www.epocrates.com.