



Pharmacy Policy and Formulary Update

Effective July/August 2009

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

Concomitant Use of Clopidogrel and Proton Pump Inhibitors

Studies evaluating the interaction between medications in the proton pump inhibitor (PPI) class with Plavix[®] have recently been released. A retrospective analysis, supported independently by Medco Health Solutions, Inc. in collaboration with the Indiana University School of Medicine, showed that the action of clopidogrel can be compromised when taken with a PPI and may result in a roughly 50% increase in the combined risk of hospitalization for heart attack, stroke and other serious cardiovascular illnesses. While experts recommend clopidogrel should continue to be prescribed for patients undergoing coronary stent procedures, they believe that the need for PPI therapy should be carefully evaluated to ensure it is prescribed only when clearly indicated. MVP will continue to monitor updates on this issue as they become available.

H1N1 Virus Update

Since the first reported swine flu case in the United States, MVP has been monitoring the utilization of Tamiflu[®] and Relenza[®]. Our records indicate a slight increase in combined claims for these antiviral medications at the end of April with utilization patterns currently at pre-outbreak levels. MVP covers the 5-day treatment course or the 10-day prophylaxis course for both agents. MVP will continue to monitor utilization and take appropriate action if necessary.

Updates Effective July 1, 2009

Buprenorphine Maintenance/Opioid Substitution Therapy

- policy will be archived
- prior authorization will no longer be required for Subutex[®] or Suboxone[®].

Updates Effective August 1, 2009

Growth Hormone Policy

- coverage criteria for SGA/IUGR was added
- additional criteria was added for PWS
- GH provocative tests added to criteria
- criteria added for GHD in adults

Biologic Drug Therapy for Inflammatory Arthritis Policy

- criteria was added for Rituxan[®] when used for re-treatment

Medication for Smoking Cessation Policy

- coverage will be provided, with prior authorization, for legend nicotine products and brand Zyban[®] when medically necessary

Intranasal Corticosteroids Policy

- new policy
- Nasonex[®] will move to formulary, Tier 2
- Nasacort AQ[®] and Rhinocort Aqua[®] will move to non-formulary, Tier 3
- all non-formulary intranasal corticosteroids will require prior authorization
- criteria will require that member has failed or has a contraindication to a generic and formulary brand (Nasonex[®]) product

The following policies were reviewed and approved with no changes to criteria:

- Leukotriene Modifiers
- Advanced Agents for Pulmonary Hypertension
- Xolair[®]
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Patient Medication Safety

Medications removed from prior authorization

Sancuso[®] (quantity limits apply), Keppra XR[®], Xenazine[®], Aplenzin[®], Xyzal[®] and Zingo[®] (medical) no longer require prior authorization. Except as noted, all medications are non-formulary, Tier 3.

Medication Recalls and Withdrawals

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

- On April 30, 2009, the FDA announced that safety label changes, including a boxed warning, will be required for all botulinum toxin products because of the chance that the drug may spread from the area of injection causing symptoms similar to those of botulism.
- On May 1, 2009, the FDA alerted the public to be wary of Internet sites that promote products that claim to diagnose, prevent, mitigate, treat or cure the HINI influenza virus. These products are not cleared or approved by the FDA.

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 go to the *Provider* section of the site and under *Pharmacy*, click on *Formulary*. The MVP Formulary can be downloaded to a PDA device from www.epocrates.com.

There is a link to ePocrates® on the MVP Web site. Please update your e-Pocrates account if your computer or PDA is set up to automatically download the Formulary. Unless otherwise noted, the following Formulary information is effective August 1, 2009.

New Drugs (newly approved by the FDA), prior authorization required, Tier 3)

Coartem®

Afinitor® (must obtain from CuraScript®)

degarelix

Edluar®

Tobradex® ST

Ixiaro® (medical benefit)

Uloric®

Nucynta®

Temodar® IV (medical benefit)

Drugs Added to Formulary

amphetamine salts (generic Adderall XR®)

topiramate (generic Topamax®)

liothyronine (generic Cytomel®)

Apidra® SoloStar

Nasonex®

Drugs Removed from Formulary*

Adderall XR®

Topamax®

Cytomel®

Nasacort AQ®

Rhinocort Aqua®

**Impacted members on drugs removed from the formulary will receive a letter if further action is required (i.e. contacting the prescriber for a formulary alternative)*