First Health
Services Corporation

Nevada Medicaid and Nevada Check Up Fiscal Agent
P.O. Box 30042 Reno, NV   89520-3042
(877) 638-3472 http://nevada.fhsc.com

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Medicaid Prescribers and Pharmacies FROM: First Health Services
Corporation DATE: Aug. 20, 2004

RE: Updated Preferred Drug List (PDL)

Please find enclosed the updated version of the Nevada Medicaid Preferred Drug List (PDL).   The original was mailed to you in July.   The antidepressant and the stimulant/ADHD drug classes were recently added to the PDL by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee.   It is important to note that only the drug classes listed on the current PDL are affected by PDL requirements at this time.   In the future, the PDL can be expanded or revised by the Committee.

The PDL implementation schedule will include computerized messages to pharmacies starting August 17th with the first phase of the PDL becoming operational on August 25th.   For a complete PDL implementation schedule, please refer to the following website: https://medicaid.nv.gov and click on the "Pharmacy" tab.   A copy of the "PDL Exception Prior Authorization Form" is also available at this site.

The following drugs or drug classes will be "grandfathered" for one year, i.e., patients currently taking these drugs will not be required to obtain prior authorization (PA) in order to continue receiving the drug:
- SSRI Antidepressants
- Novel Antidepressants
- Stimulant/ADHD Drugs
- Hepatitis C Drugs (for current course of therapy only)
- Coreg

New prescriptions for the following drugs may be obtained without prior authorization if the prescriber includes the following ICD-9-CM code on the prescription:
- Coreg - Code 428 (Congestive Heart Failure with Left Ventricular Systolic Dysfunction)
- Zoloft - Code 300.3 (Obsessive Compulsive Disorder – Limited to patients between 6 and 17 years of age)

For any questions regarding the PDL process, including prior authorization requests for non-preferred agents, please contact First Health Services' Clinical Call Center at 1-800-505-9185.

LG-082004-PDLUPDATE