

February 16, 2011

Mr. Lanier Cansler
Secretary of Health and Human Services
N.C. Department of Health and Human Services
101 Blair Drive
Raleigh, N.C. 27603

Dear Secretary Cansler,

On behalf of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Medicaid Preferred Drug List Review Panel, I am pleased to present our recommendations to you for the final implementation phase of the North Carolina Medicaid Preferred Drug List. The following recommendations are the result of the clinical reviews completed on January 28, 2011 and represent specialty drug classes that required a more lengthy review process.

As with previous reviews, the panel reviewed drug classes on the proposed Preferred Drug List that were approved by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics committee and the North Carolina Physicians Advisory Group. The panel reviewed each drug class in which a decision was needed on preferred versus non-preferred status. Decisions were made with consideration given to the evidence-based data available for each drug class, the written comments received during the public comment period and the public testimony received during the panel meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The panel recommends approval of the proposed N.C. Medicaid Preferred Drug List with associated prior authorization criteria as posted during the November 5, 2010 through December 20, 2010 public comment period with the following changes:

1. MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

The panel approves the PDL proposal for the multiple sclerosis agents with the following change:

- Ampyra and Gilenya will require a trial and failure with one preferred agent when injection site reactions occur with the preferred injectable agents

2. **GROWTH HORMONES**

The panel approves the PDL proposal for the growth hormone agents with the following changes:

- Change Genotropin Miniquick disp. syringe to preferred status
- Change Nutropin AQ Nuspin to preferred status

3. **ELECTROLYTE DEPLETERS**

- Add an exemption for Renvela Powder Pack for children less than 12 years old

4. **GOUT**

- Change colchicine/probenecid to preferred status and remove drug class from the PDL

Sincerely,

Lisa Weeks, PharmD, RPh

Lisa Weeks, PharmD, RPh
Chair, Medicaid Preferred Drug List Review Panel

Cc: Dr. Cedric Bright, Old North State Medical Society
Dr. Paul Bush, Hospital-Based Pharmacy
Dr. Larry Cutchin, Community Care of North Carolina
Dr. Stefanie Ferreri, N.C. Association of Pharmacists
Dr. Theresa Flynn, N.C. Pediatric Society
Dr. John Gilmore, N.C. Psychiatric Association
Dr. Byron J. Hoffman, N.C. Chapter of the American College of Physicians
Dr. Robert L. (Chuck) Rich, N.C. Academy of Family Physicians
Dr. Robert Schotzinger, Research-Based Pharmaceutical Company
Dr. Beat Steiner, N.C. Physicians Advisory Group Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee
Dr. Craigan Gray, N.C. Division of Medical Assistance
Tara Larson, N.C. Division of Medical Assistance