



Medical Assistance
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

An Information Service of the Division of Medical Assistance

**North Carolina
Medicaid Pharmacy
Newsletter**

Number 263

December 2016

In This Issue...

**Pharmacy Professional Claims for Vaccines Exempt from Co-Pay and Ordering
Provider**

NADAC Rate Update Process

Preferred Drug List (PDL) Update

72-hour Emergency Supply Available for Pharmacy Prior Authorization Drugs

Checkwrite Schedule for January 2017

Published by CSRA, fiscal agent for the North Carolina Medicaid Program

800-688-6696

Pharmacy Professional Claims for Vaccines Exempt from Co-Pay and Ordering Provider

A change was implemented in NCTracks on December 1, 2016, to exempt pharmacy professional claims for vaccines from co-pay. Co-pays should not be charged on vaccines administered by pharmacists. The exemption from co-pay is effective with date of service January 1, 2016. Pharmacy professional claims submitted prior to December 1, 2016 for which a co-pay was deducted from payment may be resubmitted for payment without the co-pay being deducted.

In addition, on December 1, 2016, a change was implemented in NCTracks to exempt pharmacy professional claims from the requirement for an Ordering Provider. (Pharmacy claims might have previously pended with Explanation of Benefits 02438 - ORDERING PROVIDER IS REQUIRED FOR THIS SERVICE.) This change allows immunizing pharmacists to screen and offer appropriately allowed vaccination(s) to Medicaid beneficiaries without obtaining a prescription or an order for that beneficiary or vaccination(s). Immunizing pharmacists are reminded that [G.S. 90-85.15B](#) requires pharmacist administered vaccines to be administered under a written protocol and in accordance with a supervising physician licensed in and has a practice physically located in NC. The exemption from the Ordering Provider requirement is effective with date of service November 1, 2016.

NADAC Rate Update Process

Pharmacy providers anticipate drug manufacturer price increases in January and July each year and DMA has received questions from pharmacy providers regarding the process used to update NADAC rates. NADAC rates are updated based on manufacturer pricing changes (i.e. WAC). Myers and Stauffer LC, the CMS contractor, receives weekly files from First Databank and implement any price changes on the next NADAC file. Changes in the NADAC rates due to WAC changes will receive the effective date of the WAC change and therefore these NADAC rates will appear backdated so long as the effective date of the WAC change does not cross the previous effective date. For example, a WAC update for drug A has an effective date of 1/4/17 and is received on the weekly FDB file on 1/6/17. Myers and Stauffer LC would apply the update to the rate for drug A to the NADAC file published by CMS on 1/11/17 and the NADAC effective date would be 1/4/17, not 1/11/17. Myers and Stauffer LC then collects January invoices beginning February 1st and would implement the rates reflective of January purchases prices in March unless they receive a help desk call that warrants an increase/decrease to the NADAC rate.

NC pharmacy providers may contact the **NADAC Help Desk** for any questions related to the NADAC survey process or if they have questions or concerns with a specific NADAC rate, such as those related to recent large price increases or drug shortages. Please note that the NADAC Help Desk will not address pharmacy inquiries into specific NC Medicaid claim reimbursement related questions or concerns.

Myers and Stauffer LC will operate the NADAC help desk. The operating hours for the help desk are Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 8 PM EST and contact information is included below.

Toll-free phone: (855) 457-5264
 Electronic mail: survey@mslcrps.com
 Facsimile: (844) 860-0236

Preferred Drug List (PDL) Update

On December 16, 2016, Mylan announced the launch of the authorized generic for EpiPen® (epinephrine injection, USP) Auto-Injector at a wholesale acquisition cost (WAC) greater than 50% lower than the WAC of EpiPen 2-Pak® Auto-Injectors. The authorized generic has the same drug formulation and device functionality as EpiPen Auto-Injector, a product that has been on the market for nearly 30 years, and is administered in the same way.

Effective January 1, 2017, Epinephrine 0.3 mg and 0.15 mg Auto-Injectors will move to preferred status and EpiPen and EpiPen Jr. will move to non-preferred status on the [NC Medicaid Preferred Drug List \(PDL\)](#).

EPINEPHRINE, SELF INJECTED	
Preferred	Non-Preferred
Adrenacllick® Auto Injector epinephrine auto injector (generic for Adrenacllick®) epinephrine auto injector (generic for Epi-Pen® Auto Injector / JR Auto Injector)	Auvi-Q® Auto Injector Epi-Pen® Auto Injector / JR Auto Injector

72-hour Emergency Supply Available for Pharmacy Prior Authorization Drugs

Pharmacy providers are encouraged to use the 72-hour emergency supply allowed for drugs requiring prior authorization. **Federal law requires that this emergency supply be available to Medicaid recipients for drugs requiring prior authorization** (Social Security Act, Section 1927, 42 U.S.C. 1396r-8(d)(5)(B)). Use of this emergency supply will ensure access to medically necessary medications.

The system will bypass the prior authorization requirement if an emergency supply is indicated. Use a "3" in the Level of Service field (418-DI) to indicate that the transaction is an emergency fill. **Note: Copayments will apply and only the drug cost will be reimbursed. There is no limit to the number of times the emergency supply can be used.**

Electronic Cutoff Schedule

December 30, 2016
January 6, 2017
January 13, 2017
January 20, 2017
January 27, 2017

Checkwrite Schedule

January 4, 2017
January 10, 2017
January 18, 2017
January 24, 2017
January 31, 2017

POS claims must be transmitted and completed by 11:59 p.m. on the day of the electronic cutoff date to be included in the next checkwrite.

The 2017 DMA checkwrite schedule is posted under **Quick Links** on the [NCTracks Provider Portal home page](#).

John C. Stancil, Jr., R.Ph.
Director, Pharmacy and DMEPOS Programs
Division of Medical Assistance
NC Department of Health and Human Services

Rick Paderick, R.Ph.
Pharmacy Director
NCTracks
CSRA

Sandra Terrell, MS, RN
Director of Clinical
Division of Medical Assistance
NC Department of Health and Human Services

Lori Landman
Deputy Executive Account Director
NCTracks
CSRA

Dave Richard
Deputy Secretary for Medical Assistance
Division of Medical Assistance
NC Department of Health and Human Services

Paul Guthery
Executive Account Director
NCTracks
CSRA

Nancy Henley, MD
Chief Medical Officer
Division of Medical Assistance
NC Department of Health and Human Services

Desiree Elekwa-Izuakor, Pharm D, MBA, CPC-A
Outpatient Pharmacy Program Manager
Division of Medical Assistance
NC Department of Health and Human Services