

Legislative & Gov. Affairs Alaska Medicaid Pharmacy Program 2010 - Update

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Dispensing Fee Survey

- Available online at:
http://hss.state.ak.us/dhcs/PDL/20090824_dispensing_fee_survey.pdf
- Dispensing fees and drug costs are being addressed but no changes have been finalized or adopted into regulation
 - 7 AAC 145.400 Prescription drug payment rate
 - 7 AAC 145.410 Dispensing fee

Current Focus of Pharmacy and Ancillary Services

- Extra attention is towards Quality Assurance
 - “a program for the systematic monitoring and evaluation of the various aspects of a project, service, or facility to ensure that standards of quality are being met”

quality assurance. (2010). In Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, Retrieved January 29, 2010, from [http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/quality assurance](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/quality%20assurance)

Objectives

- Describe the Quality Assurance process
- Provide examples of medications involved in the Quality Assurance process
- Identify implications of Quality Assurance on Pharmacists
- Assist pharmacists to prevent audit problems and findings



Quality Assurance Process

- Quality Assurance (QA) helps ensure DHSS is correctly paying providers for products and services.
 - QA aims to prevent errors
 - Providers are contacted via phone and/or letter when issues are identified
 - Detailed explanations are provided to prevent future problems as well as to correct past issues.



Quality Assurance Process

- Required by federal and state statutes and regulations.
 - 42 CFR 455
 - AS47.05.010, AS47.07.074
 - 7 AAC 105.230, 7 AAC 105.240



Quality Assurance Process

- Claims are reviewed by local HCS staff
 - *Mission: To provide health coverage to Alaskans in need.*
 - We are available via email, phone, fax and by appointment in Anchorage.

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Quality Assurance Process

- Submitted claim information is analyzed for abnormalities
 - Common Issues:
 - Incorrect days supply
 - Incorrect quantity
 - Incorrect NDC
- Abnormal claims may result in a request to verify the accuracy of the claim

Quality Assurance Process

- All claims and medications have the potential to be reviewed
- Special attention is given to medications with difficult billing units (Medications of Interest)
 - “each” vs “mL”
 - “mL” vs “each”
 - “each” vs “grams”



Medications of Interest

- Asmanex®
 - Billing is based on the number of grams dispensed
 - 1 inhaler = 0.24 grams
 - Common Error: Billing for the number of doses delivered or the number of inhalers.
 - AWP for 0.24 grams = \$126.42
 - AWP for 1 gram = \$526.75 (\$400.33)
 - AWP for 30 grams = \$15,802.50 (\$15,676.08)



Medications of Interest (cont.)

- Byetta®
 - Billing is based on milliliters, not the dose in micrograms.
 - Common Error: Billing the quantity as the daily dose in micrograms or number of doses per package.
 - AWP for 2.4 milliliters = \$344.02
 - AWP for 20 milliliters = \$2,866.83 (\$2,522.81)



Medications of Interest (cont.)

- Copaxone®
 - Billing is based on the number of units dispensed
 - 1 unit contains 30 syringes
 - Common Error: Billing 1 unit as a quantity of “30”
 - AWP for 1 unit = \$3,303.05
 - AWP for 30 units = \$99,091.50 (\$95,788.45)



Medications of Interest (cont.)

- Duac CS[®] Kit
 - Billing is based on the number of KITS dispensed
 - Each Kit contains 45 grams
 - Common Error: Billing 1 Kit with a quantity of “45”
 - AWP for 1 kit = \$181.15
 - AWP for 45 kits= \$8,151.75 (\$7,970.60)



Medications of Interest (cont.)

- Lovenox[®]
 - Billing is based on the number of milliliters dispensed, not the number of injections.
 - Common Error: Billing the number of syringes dispensed or rounding to whole numbers
 - AWP for 24mL (60 syringes) of Lovenox[®] 40mg = \$2,164.80
 - AWP for 60mL of Lovenox[®] 40mg = \$5,412.00 (\$3,247.20)



Medications of Interest (cont.)

- ProAir[®]
 - 1 unit = 8.5 grams
 - 2 units = 17 grams
 - Common Error:
 - Albuterol CFC inhalers were 17g per inhaler
 - Decimal errors are common “85” or “805” instead of “8.5”



Medications of Interest (cont.)

- Risperdal Consta[®]
 - Billing is based on the number of Kits dispensed, not the volume of each injection.
 - Common Error: Billing the kit as a quantity of “2” for the volume in milliliters.
 - AWP for 1 kit (25mg) = \$296.46
 - AWP for 2 kits (25mg) = \$592.92 (\$296.46)



Medications of Interest (cont.)

- Synagis[®] 50mg
 - Billing is based on the number of milliliters dispensed, not the number of vials dispensed.
 - 1 vial = 0.5mL
 - Common Error: Billing 1 vial of Synagis 50mg as “1” instead of “0.5”
 - AWP for 0.5mL = \$1,145.47
 - AWP for 1mL = \$2,290.94 (\$1,145.47)



Medications of Interest (cont.)

- ZMAX[®]
 - Billing is based on the number of units dispensed, not the number of grams or volume of the reconstituted product.
 - Common Errors: Billing 1 unit as “2” for grams or “60” for the final volume.
 - AWP for 1 unit = \$67.04
 - AWP for 60 units = \$4,022.40 (\$3,955.36)



Implications for Pharmacists

- Responsible for the accurate dispensing and billing of prescriptions.
- Billing errors can lead to dispensing errors.
 - ↑ or ↓ doses may cause harm to the patient
 - More side effects
 - Therapeutic failures
- Billing errors can lead to audit findings

Implications for Pharmacists

- Claims submitted incorrectly must be corrected
- Overpayments must be repaid
 - 7 AAC 105.260 and 7 AAC 105.220 (f)
- Depending on the type and frequency of error self reviews, corrective action plans and training may be required



Any Questions?

