



MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA * DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

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EFFECTIVE DATE:
May 12, 2003

SUBJECT: Pharmaceutical Services Prescribed and/or Dispensed by a Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner (CRNP)

BY:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carole W. Rebert".

Carole W. Rebert
Official-In-Charge
Office of Medical Assistance Programs

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Bulletin is: (1) to inform providers that the Office of Medical Assistance (M A) Programs recognize Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners' (CRNPs) Prescriptive Authority, and (2) to provide procedures for CRNPs to enroll in order to bill as dispensing CRNPs.

SCOPE:

This Bulletin applies to all pharmacies, licensed physicians and CRNPs enrolled in the M A Program that provide services in the Fee-for-Service (FFS) delivery system. Providers should contact the appropriate managed care organization (MCO) regarding M A managed care claims.

BACKGROUND:

A regulatory change adopted jointly by the Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine and the State Board of Nursing (SBN) addressed "CRNPs prescribing and dispensing drugs." The SBN adopted the provisions of 49 Pa.Code § 21.283 titled "Prescribing and dispensing drugs" on November 17, 2000. The provisions became effective on November 18, 2000. Under these provisions, CRNPs who have been granted prescriptive authority and have signed a collaborative agreement with a medical physician (MD only) licensed to practice medicine in this Commonwealth, may prescribe and dispense a drug relevant to their specialty area of practice as documented in the collaborative agreement. CRNPs may also write prescriptions for Schedule II controlled substances up to a 72-hour supply and may prescribe Schedule III, IV and V controlled substances up to a 30-day supply if they have a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) certificate. CRNPs cannot include any refills on prescriptions for Schedule III, IV and V controlled substances. If a refill is needed, the collaborating physician must authorize the refill for the Schedule III, IV and V controlled substances. When writing prescriptions, CRNPs should always include their license numbers on the prescription and their DEA numbers if prescribing controlled substances.

PROCEDURES:
ENROLLMENT AS A DISPENSING CRNP

Those M A enrolled CRNPs who have met the requirements of the State Board of Medicine and the SBN and have been authorized to prescribe and dispense drugs must submit to the Department of Public Welfare (Department) the following in order to submit claims for drugs dispensed in accordance with their prescriptive authority:

1. A copy of their Collaborative Agreement.
2. A copy of their Prescriptive Authority Approval (verification of educational requirements) from the Department of State.
3. A copy of their Controlled Substance Registration Certificate issued by the DEA.

Additional information on dispensing drugs will be included in the revised CRNP Handbook pages.

Provider enrollment files will be updated to reflect the CRNPs' prescriptive authority approval in order to permit CRNPs to bill for dispensing drugs. CRNPs who do not submit the required information will not be able to bill for drugs dispensed to MA consumers. To ensure continuity of compensation for services, subsequent renewals must be received by the Department on a timely basis. The above information and subsequent prescriptive authority renewals should be sent to:

Bureau of Fee-for-Service Programs
Provider Enrollment Unit
P. O. Box 8045
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105
ATTN: CRNP Prescriptive Authority

CRNPS PHARMACY PROVIDER INFORMATION:

Effective immediately the M A Program FFS delivery system will recognize prescriptions written by CRNPs in accordance with their prescriptive authority. CRNPs enrolled in the M A Program do not need to provide any further enrollment information. For prescriptions written by CRNPs, pharmacies may now use the license number of the CRNPs prescribing the medication when submitting claims through the Electronic Claims Management (ECM) on-line pharmacy billing system. ECM has been programmed to accept CRNPs license numbers in the prescriber identification number field (NCPDP field 411).

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

The Appropriate toll-free number for your provider type

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap.