



MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA • DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

ISSUE DATE

December 21, 2007

EFFECTIVE DATE

November 9, 2007

NUMBER

09-07-16	21-07-04
24-07-16	31-07-22

SUBJECT

The Addition of Isentress (raltegravir) to the Special Pharmaceutical Benefits Program.

Michael Nardone, Deputy Secretary
Office of Medical Assistance Programs

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to notify providers that effective November 9, 2007, the **Special Pharmaceutical Benefits Program (SPBP)** added Isentress (raltegravir) for the treatment of HIV/AIDS.

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to all Medical Assistance (MA) providers who prescribe and/or dispense drugs for eligible SPBP participants with SPBP Identification Cards beginning with SP1. This bulletin also applies to Pharmacies, Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners (CRNPs) and HIV Case Managers.

BACKGROUND:

The SPBP formulary is dynamic, pending approval from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of new drugs used to treat HIV/AIDS. The Department is announcing the addition of Isentress (raltegravir), a newly FDA approved product, to the SPBP formulary effective November 9, 2007.

Claims for SPBP covered drugs are processed on-line through the First Health Services Corporation. Providers must bill other third party insurance, including Medicare Part D if applicable, prior to submitting claims to the SPBP. All questions regarding reimbursement and on-line technical assistance should be directed to the First Health Services Provider Inquiry Line at: 1-800-835-4080.

If an SPBP client transitions to Medical Assistance (MA) drug coverage, SPBP drug coverage is no longer valid. Providers are advised to submit claims to the MA Program Fee-for-Service or Managed Care delivery system.

The SPBP's current HIV/AIDS formulary can be found on the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website below. Claims should not be submitted for drugs not listed on the formulary.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

SPBP staff at 1-800-922-9384 (IN STATE) or 1-717-772-6228 (OUT OF STATE AND LOCAL) or for additional information about the SPBP (including applications), visit DPW's Office of Medical Assistance Programs (OMAP) website link for HIV/AIDS Information.

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