

	<b>MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BULLETIN</b> <b>COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA * DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE</b>		
	<b>NUMBER:</b> 19-97-01	<b>ISSUE DATE:</b> February 21, 1997	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> February 23, 1997
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Prospective Drug Use Review Therapeutic Duplication Screening		<b>BY:</b>    <b>Robert S. Zimmerman, Jr., M.P.H.</b> <b>Deputy Secretary for Medical Assistance Programs</b>	

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this bulletin is to notify pharmacies that the Department is modifying the screening criteria for therapeutic duplication for claims processed through the Department's on-line prospective drug use review (Pro-DUR) system.

**SCOPE:**

This bulletin is applicable to all pharmacies enrolled in the Medical Assistance Program.

**BACKGROUND:**

Pharmacies are now using the Department's on-line ProDUR system to screen for various drug therapy problems before filing and dispensing the prescription to a medical assistance recipient. One of these criteria involves screening for therapeutic duplications.

Currently, when two or more drugs within the same therapeutic category are prescribed and the pharmacist attempts to transmit the claim for the second drug through the on-line system, the pharmacist will receive a therapeutic duplication alert which may then be overridden.

Recently, the Department surveyed pharmacy providers throughout the Commonwealth to solicit their comments or problems they were experiencing when submitting claims through the ProDUR system. Many of the comments received expressed a concern over receiving unnecessary and redundant therapeutic duplication alerts especially when refilling prescriptions or if the pharmacy already screened the patient's profile for a therapeutic duplication.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Department recognizes that there may be situations when the treatment of a patient may involve the use of several different drugs within the same therapeutic category. Therefore, in response to the many comments received and at the recommendation of the Drug Use Review (DUR) Board, the Department will modify the therapeutic duplication screening criteria to avoid those alerts which may be viewed as unnecessary or redundant.

For claims processed on or after February 23, 1997, the Department will no longer send a ProDUR alert through the Electronic Claims Management (ECM) on-line adjudication system to the pharmacy when the therapeutic duplication involves refills for drugs within the same therapeutic category that are prescribed by the same physician and dispensed from the same pharmacy to an individual medical assistance recipient. The Department will continue to send this alert only when the therapeutic duplication involves drugs within the same therapeutic category either prescribed by two different physicians or dispensed from a pharmacy other than the one submitting the claim.

**PROCEDURE:**

Effective February 23, 1997, each pharmacy will be responsible for performing the on-site ProDUR screening of the

therapeutic duplication of drugs dispensed within the confines of that individual pharmacy. The pharmacy may use any ProDUR system available including the use of a prospective DUR software database.

THE PHARMACY WILL STILL RECEIVE A THERAPEUTIC DUPLICATION PRODUR ALERT FOR DRUGS WITHIN THE SAME THERAPEUTIC CATEGORY FOR ALL ORIGINAL PRESCRIPTOINS AND IF THE RECIPIENT PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED ONE OR MORE OF THESE DRUGS FROM ANOTHER PHARMACY OR WAS PRESCRIBED OTHER DRUGS WITHIN THE SAME THERAPEUTIC CATEGORY BY ANOTHER PHYSICIAN.

**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:**

Pharmacy Services Section  
P.O. Box 8043  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105

1-800-932-0938

Visit the Office of Medical Assistance Programs website at [www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/omap).