



ISSUE DATE May 3, 2013	EFFECTIVE DATE January 1, 2013	NUMBER *See below
SUBJECT Medicare Part D Coverage of Barbiturates and Benzodiazepines– Pharmacy Services		BY  Vincent D. Gordon, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to remind pharmacies and dispensing providers that effective January 1, 2013, Medicare Part D is responsible for coverage of barbiturates used in the treatment of epilepsy, cancer, or a chronic mental health disorder, and benzodiazepines for all medically accepted indications for dual eligibles (Medicaid beneficiaries that also have Medicare).

SCOPE:

This bulletin applies to all licensed pharmacies and dispensing providers enrolled in the Medical Assistance (MA) Program and providing services in the fee-for-service (FFS) and/or managed care delivery system(s), including pharmacy services to residents of long term care facilities.

BACKGROUND:

Section 175 of the Medicare Improvement for Patients and Provider Act of 2008 (MIPPA) amended section 1860D-2(e)(2)(A) of the Act to include Medicare Part D drug coverage of barbiturates used in the treatment of epilepsy, cancer, or a chronic mental health disorder and benzodiazepines for all medically accepted indications.

DISCUSSION:

This coverage change in Medicare Part D affected dual eligibles. As of January 1, 2013, Medicare Part D is responsible for payment for these drugs for dual eligible beneficiaries. The MA Program general payment policy at 55 Pa. Code § 1121.51 states that payment will not be made for a compensable pharmaceutical service if payment is available

*01-13-28	08-13-28	14-13-27	30-13-26	33-13-30
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03-13-26	11-13-26	27-13-28	32-13-26	

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 Web site at
<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/provider/healthcaremedicalassistance/index.htm>

from another public agency or another insurance or health program. Therefore, the MA Program excluded coverage of these drugs for dual eligible beneficiaries effective January 1, 2013.

This change does not affect MA Program beneficiaries who are not dual eligibles. All non-dual eligible MA Program beneficiaries remain eligible for coverage of barbiturates and benzodiazepines. The MA Program will also continue to provide coverage of barbiturates for dual eligible beneficiaries when used for an indication that Medicare does not cover.

PROCEDURE:

Providers should submit claims for dual eligibles as follows:

1. For barbiturates and benzodiazepines, submit to the beneficiary's Medicare Part D plan.
2. For barbiturates when used for an indication that Medicare does not cover, submit to:
 - a. The MA Program if the beneficiary is in Fee-for-Service
 - b. The beneficiary's managed care organization (MCO) if the beneficiary is enrolled in an MCO

Providers should submit claims for non-dual eligibles as follows:

1. For barbiturates and benzodiazepines, submit to the MA Program if the beneficiary is in Fee-for-Service
2. For barbiturates and benzodiazepines, submit to the beneficiary's MCO if the beneficiary is enrolled in an MCO

Providers rendering services to beneficiaries in the MA managed care delivery system should address any billing questions to the appropriate MCO.