



Industry News

Our general response (and input is welcome) is that antibiotic stewardship is important and welcome, but hard and fast rules have the potential to hurt patients, particularly for some of these antibiotic classes.

Judicious use is good: barriers to care are bad.

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Dear Provider,

The State of Nevada, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP) has approved recommendations provided by the Drug Use Review Board at the July 26, 2018 meeting. The recommendations include prior authorization criteria on specific antibiotic agents. We estimate implementation of this policy to be in early 2019.

Nevada, along with the rest of the nation, is struggling with the antimicrobial resistance crisis. According to the CDC, our state leads the country in a number of resistance phenotypes that include fluoroquinolones and third generation cephalosporins. These are important antibiotic classes used to treat serious, complicated infections. Our resistance patterns over time suggest we may reach a time when these antibiotics are no longer effective, leaving us with very few options.

One of the drivers of advancing antibiotic resistance is overuse and studies have shown that restriction of antibiotic use can reduce the levels of resistance over time. Soon, DHCFP will be implementing a policy to require prior authorizations in the outpatient care setting for the prescription of oral fluoroquinolones and third generation cephalosporins. This policy will require demonstration of medical necessity based on current Infectious Diseases Society of America national guidelines or specific data such as culture-sensitivity results.

Our overall goal is that together, we can preserve our ability to save lives with antibiotics and begin to turn the tide of antibiotic resistance for Medicaid recipients through excellent stewardship.

DHCFP Pharmacy Department will be providing further information and provider education regarding this implementation in the form of web announcements, a work group and a webinar. There will also be an opportunity to attend a public hearing regarding the implementation of this policy. Please watch the Nevada Medicaid website for updates.

Sincerely,

Beth Slamowitz
Chief, Pharmacy, DHCFP

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