



# Provider Issue Briefing

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## Contra Costa Health Plan Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee

### Pharmacy and Therapeutics NewsNotes

#### Preferred Drug List (PDL) changes should be effective around July 2013

The CCHP Pharmacy and Therapeutics committee approved **addition** of the following agents to the Preferred Drug List. These agents **will not** require Prior Authorization:

- lovastatin

Other formulary changes:

- pravastatin new patient starts subject to step-therapy requiring at least 1-month claim within past year of either simvastatin or atorvastatin or ritonavir

In response to the national epidemic of opiate abuse, DEA has begun enforcing their regulatory oversight of pharmacists' role in dispensing controlled substances. DEA wants to ensure prescriptions are issued for a legitimate medical purpose. Pharmacies and pharmacists are requiring more information including but not limited to: diagnosis, previous medications tried, and length of expected treatment. They will apply more scrutiny to opiate prescriptions which exceed 120mg/day of morphine equivalent. Prescribers should be aware they may be informed should a pharmacy discover possible issues during a CURES lookup of the patient.

Controlled substance schedule II-V 30-day supply limit

CCHP will begin processing DEA schedule 2-5 controlled-substance prescriptions for no more than the quantity of medication calculated to last 30 days. For example if dosing 1 TID, #90 units for 30 days would process, but #180 units for 60 days would reject with a message that quantities greater than 30 days are not covered.

For prescriptions in schedules 3, 4, and 5, quantities greater than a 30 day supply can be saved or "rolled over" by the pharmacy as refills. For example, 1 qd with #90 would be processed by the pharmacy as #30 plus 2 more refills.

For schedule 2 prescriptions, which cannot legally be refilled, the pharmacy will be unable to save the excess quantity as refills. For patients who are seen at longer than monthly intervals, CCHP recommends issuing one triplicate for each month of medication desired. This set of monthly prescription security forms can be issued to a patient during one visit. The patient may drop off all forms at once at the pharmacy. The pharmacy can dispense the current month's form and "hold" the future forms in the patient's prescription profile. This mitigates the risk of lost prescription forms and eliminates the need for patients to return to the prescriber for each month's form.

Rationale:

- CCHP will be conforming more to DEA guidance for controlled substances by:
  - Reducing large quantities of medications having the highest potential for theft, fraud, diversion, abuse, and misadventuring from entering our communities
  - DEA vigilance increasing due to current nationwide prescription drug abuse epidemic
    - Please see [www.pdmpexcellence.org/drug-abuse-epidemic](http://www.pdmpexcellence.org/drug-abuse-epidemic)
- CCHP peer health plans cover controlled substance prescriptions with only 30 day supply limit
- Reducing potential waste

- Majority of currently issued prescriptions paid by CCHP are already 30 days or less

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CCHP updates the Preferred Drug List (PDL) formulary after each quarterly Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee meeting. CCHP invites and encourages practitioners to access each update through the following means:

A printable copy of the CCHP preferred drug list can be found here:

<http://cchealth.org/healthplan/pdf/pdl.pdf>

A searchable CCHP preferred drug list can be found here:

<http://formularynavigator.com/Search.aspx?siteID=MMRREQ3QBC>

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## EPOCRATES – *free* mobile & online formulary resource

How to add the CCHP formulary to your epocrates user profile:

1. Go to [www.epocrates.com](http://www.epocrates.com).
2. Click on "My Account" in the top right.
3. Sign in with your Epocrates username and password, if needed.
4. Click on "Edit Formularies."
5. Follow the on screen instructions to select and download formularies or to remove formularies.
  - For the 'Select State' filter, click **California**
  - For the 'Select Category' filter, click **Health Plan**
  - Choose the **Contra Costa Healthplan** formulary; click the 'Add' button
  - Click the "Done" button when you've finished.
6. Update your device, and the formularies on your mobile device will be changed accordingly.



Epocrates mobile is supported on the iOS (iPhone, iTouch, iPad), Android, & BlackBerry platforms

If you have any questions about the installation or use of Epocrates, please contact Epocrates Customer Support at [goldsupport@epocrates.com](mailto:goldsupport@epocrates.com) or at (800)230-2150.

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Questions and comments may be directed to CCHP Pharmacy by emailing [cchp\\_pharmacy\\_director@hsd.cccounty.us](mailto:cchp_pharmacy_director@hsd.cccounty.us)