



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 November 2014

The CCHP Pharmacy and Therapeutics committee approved **addition** of the following agents to the Preferred Drug List. These agents are **subject to some restrictions**:

- Victoza – approved after trial of metformin, Januvia, and insulin
- Byetta – approved after trial of metformin, Januvia, insulin, and Victoza
- Oral micronized progesterone (Prometrium) – approved after trial of medroxyprogesterone acetate (MPA) or clinical rationale for avoiding MPA
- Vivelle-DOT patch – approved after trial of generic estradiol patch or clinical rationale for avoiding generic estradiol patch
- Combipatch patch – approved after trial of generic estradiol patch or clinical rationale for avoiding generic estradiol patch

Pravastatin disruption, explanation and apology:

CCHP apologizes for the poor execution of changes to pravastatin coverage. The intent was to “grandfather” treatment and allow all patients currently taking pravastatin to continue with no disruption. In these situations, CCHP employs “lookback” programming which searches a patient’s prescription claims history for pravastatin. As its name implies the lookback will search back a certain number of days. CCHP allows 90-day supplies of non-controlled substance maintenance medications. For example, a pravastatin patient who filled a 90-day supply and wasn’t perfectly adherent who later tries to obtain a refill after 100 days would fail the lookback. This scenario generated numerous prior authorization requests. The mistake occurred because the lookback window was set too short, to only 90 days. Prescriber frustration at this situation is understandable. We have since remedied the lookback and apologize for the confusion and disruption.

Hydrocodone Combination Products will be reclassified as controlled substance schedule 2 (C-II):

Effective October 6, 2014, DEA has re-scheduled hydrocodone combination products (HCPs) such as Vicodin, Norco, Vicoprofen, and Tussionex from controlled substance schedule 3 to schedule 2. This places HCPs in the same category and legal restrictions as other schedule 2 (C-II) products such as morphine, Oxycontin, Adderall, and Ritalin. These restrictions include: prescriptions must be issued on security-blank prescriptions, may not be phoned-in, and may not be refilled. To continue treatment, a new hardcopy prescription needs to be issued for each additional prescription dispensing. Any refills on prescriptions written prior to October 6 will not be honored by Rite Aid and Walgreens. Independent pharmacies may be handling legacy refills differently.

Medication Prior Authorization processing turnaround time to become 1 business day::

CA Department of Health Care Services has promulgated new regulations regarding Prior Authorization processing turnaround times. CCHP is currently redesigning its workflows to achieve 1 business day turnaround on all medication Prior Authorizations.

Smoking cessation counseling certificate no longer required::

CA Department of Health Care Services is requiring the CCHP remove the requirement to obtain proof of counseling for tobacco cessation. CCHP currently requires members to call 1-800-NO-BUTTS to obtain a certificate of smoking cessation counseling. Reprogramming of claims processing is occurring, expect these changes to take effect in November.

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.

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>

EPOCRATES – *free* mobile & online formulary resource

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

1. Go to 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 or at (800)230-2150.

Questions and comments may be directed to CCHP Pharmacy by emailing cchp_pharmacy_director@hsd.cccounty.us