



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

RETRODUR INTERVENTION NOTICE: GABAPENTIN

March 1, 2017

Dear Medicaid Provider,

The New York State (NYS) Medicaid Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Program retrospectively reviews the prescribing and dispensing of outpatient prescription medications in order to ensure that prescriptions are appropriate, medically necessary, and are not likely to result in adverse medical outcomes. Under the purview of the DUR Program, the NYS Medicaid DUR Board recently reviewed gabapentin utilization within the NYS Medicaid program. NYS Medicaid pharmacy claims data indicate that you may have written prescription(s) for gabapentin and therefore you are receiving this letter.

The DUR Board evaluated gabapentin information presented by clinical research staff from the State University of New York at Buffalo, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. The board considered information relating to Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved and compendia-supported indications, and reviewed retrospective utilization among Medicaid members. Important points presented to and discussed by the board regarding gabapentin included:

- No evidence of increase in therapeutic benefit with dosing greater than 3600 mg per day.
- Slow titration of dosing may reduce incidence of adverse events and achieve effectiveness at a lower dose.
- Evidence of use for FDA-approved or compendia-supported indications inclusive of seizure disorders or neuropathic pain in only a minority of patients.
- Post marketing reports of misuse, abuse and dependence relevant to CNS activity.

Based on a recommendation of the board, the Medicaid fee-for-service program will implement the following dosage limit:

Dose limit: maximum dose of 3600 mg per day

The board also recommended additional research of gabapentin utilization within the Medicaid program in determining any future pharmacy interventions including pharmacy point of service clinical editing and/or additional educational letters.

In providing this information to you, the DUR Program recognizes that safe and effective pharmacotherapy depends on the assessment of the patient's entire clinical profile. We ask that you consider the information provided regarding the prescribing of gabapentin for your patients.

Thank you for your professional assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

John F. Naioti, Jr., R.Ph.
Manager, Drug Utilization Review Program