



Connecticut Medical Assistance Program
Policy Transmittal 2021-16

Provider Bulletin 2021-24
April 2021

Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH, Commissioner

Effective Date: 05/21/2021
Contact: Herman Kranc @ 860 (424)5218

TO: Pharmacies and Prescribing Providers

RE: CMAP COVID-19 Response Bulletin 53: Reinstating Pharmacy Requirements – Quantity Limits and Days’ Supply, and Refill Criteria

As previously communicated in Provider Bulletin 2020-13, CMAP COVID-19 Response – Bulletin 3: Emergency Pharmacy Program Changes, in order to eliminate obstacles to beneficiaries’ access to care and pursuant to Executive Order 7I issued by the Governor, the Department of Social Services (DSS) made temporary changes to several pharmacy services. These changes were to remain in place only during the “Temporary Effective Period”. The purpose of this bulletin is to notify providers of the end of some of those changes for pharmacy services.

Effective for dates of service May 21, 2021 and forward, DSS is reinstating the following requirements:

Quantity Limits and Day Supply Limits:

Executive Order No. 7I, Section 4 allowed DSS to increase the established maximum allowable units and days’ supply for prescriptions that are **non-maintenance drugs and not controlled substances**. DSS increased the maximum day supply to ninety (90) days. The current COVID-19 state public health emergency (PHE) declaration and Executive Order 7I, Section 4 is scheduled to expire on May 20, 2021. Effective May 21, 2021, prescriptions for non-maintenance drugs will be limited to a thirty (30) day supply.

Pharmacist Discretion in Refilling Certain Prescriptions for Longer Periods:

Executive Order No. 7I, Section 9 modified the requirements of Connecticut General Statutes section 20-616, that allows a pharmacist to exercise his or her professional judgment in refilling a prescription that is not for a controlled drug for a quantity not to exceed a seventy-two (72) hour supply, if specific statutory criteria are met. Executive Order 7I, Section 9 expanded this authority to allow pharmacists to refill prescriptions for non-controlled drugs for up to a thirty (30) day supply if those statutory criteria are met. The current COVID-19 state public health emergency (PHE) declaration and Executive Order 7I, Section 9 is scheduled to expire on May 20, 2021. Effective May 21, 2021, prescriptions that are dispensed pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 20-616 will be limited to a seventy-two (72) hour supply. There is one exception to this limit. As previously communicated in Provider Bulletin 2021-16, effective January 1, 2021, the statute was amended to allow pharmacists to dispense prescriptions for specific diabetes drugs and devices for up to a thirty (30) day supply if certain criteria are met.

Early Refill Criteria:

DSS reduced the early refill threshold from 93% to 80% during the Temporary Effective Period. Effective May 21, 2021, DSS will revert to the **93%** threshold. An Early Refill Prior Authorization (PA) will be required when a pharmacy submits a claim when the

patient has consumed less than 93% of the original or latest refill prescription.

The early refill criteria will apply to prescriptions filled for a day supply of 16 days or greater. Prescriptions for a day supply less than or equal to 15 days will be subject to an 85% utilization rate. Also, any pharmacy claims submitted by out of state pharmacy providers will be subject to the 85% utilization rate.

HUSKY B Co-Pay:

Effective May 21, 2021, DSS will be reinstating the cost sharing requirements for prescription drugs provided to HUSKY B beneficiaries. As a reminder, HUSKY B beneficiaries will be responsible for a five dollar (\$5.00) copay for generics and a ten dollar (\$10.00) copay for brand name medications.

Medicare Part D Co-Pay:

Effective May 21, 2021, DSS will be reinstating the Medicare Part D co-pay requirements for Dual Eligible HUSKY Low Income Subsidy individuals. As a reminder, clients covered under a HUSKY Benefit Plan will be responsible for the first seventeen dollars (\$17.00) per month of their Medicare Part D co-pays. For more information regarding Medicare Part D co-pays for Dual Eligibles, please refer to Provider Bulletin 2020-73.

Signature Requirement for Prescription Medications:

Effective May 21, 2021, pharmacies will need to begin requiring a client signature at the time of a prescription pickup or delivery for customers who are covered under a Connecticut Medical Assistance Program (CMAP).

Posting Instructions: Policy transmittals can be downloaded from the Web site at www.ctdssmap.com.

Distribution: This policy transmittal is being distributed to providers of the CMAP by Gainwell Technologies.

Responsible Unit:

DSS, Division of Health Services, Integrated Care, Herman Kranc, Pharmacy Manager at 860-424-5218 or herman.kranc@ct.gov

Date Issued: April 2021