

**Affected Programs:** BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid  
**To:** Pharmacies, HMOs and Other Managed Care Programs

## Reactivation of Prospective Drug Utilization Review — Patient Age Alert for Children

This *ForwardHealth Update* announces the reactivation of the patient age precaution prospective Drug Utilization Review (DUR) alert for children less than 18 years of age for all products containing codeine or tramadol, as well as prescription cough and cold products containing codeine or hydrocodone. This reactivation is a result of analysis and recommendations made to the DUR Board by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS).

### Reactivation of Patient Age Precaution Prospective DUR Alert

Effective for claims processed on and after December 1, 2018, the patient age precaution prospective DUR alert is being reactivated for children less than 18 years of age for all products containing codeine or tramadol, as well as prescription cough and cold products containing codeine or hydrocodone.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) labeling includes warnings on the use of codeine and tramadol, as well as prescription cough and cold products containing codeine or hydrocodone in children. The FDA warnings include the following:

- All codeine and tramadol products are contraindicated in children less than 12 years of age.
- All codeine and tramadol products are contraindicated in children less than 18 years of age for the treatment of post-operative pain after tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy.

- All codeine and tramadol products should be used with caution in children between 12 and 18 years of age who are obese, experience sleep apnea, or have severe lung disease.
- All prescription cough and cold products containing codeine or hydrocodone are no longer indicated for use in children less than 18 years of age.

### Patient Age Prospective DUR Alert for Children

Providers will receive the patient age precaution prospective DUR alert on claims that include any products containing codeine or tramadol, as well as prescription cough and cold products containing codeine or hydrocodone, if the member is less than 18 years of age. Pharmacy providers should assess whether or not it is clinically appropriate to dispense the product for the child prior to entering an override to proceed. A response to the alert is required to obtain reimbursement. If the pharmacy provider determines it is clinically appropriate to dispense the product, ForwardHealth recommends that the pharmacy provider document the reason for overriding the patient age precaution prospective DUR alert.

### Prospective Drug Alert Hierarchy

The reactivation of the patient age precaution prospective DUR alert has reordered the hierarchical order of the

prospective DUR alerts. The following is the new hierarchy of prospective DUR conflict codes:

- PA (Drug-age precaution)
- DD (Drug-drug interaction)
- MC (Reported disease)
- TD (Therapeutic duplication)
- PG (Pregnancy alert)
- ER (Overuse precaution)
- LR (Underuse precaution)

## **Additional Resources**

For more information about prospective DUR alerts, providers may refer to the Prospective Drug Utilization Review System topic (topic #1977) in the Drug Utilization Review chapter of the Claims section of the Pharmacy service area of the ForwardHealth Online Handbook at [www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/](http://www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/).

## **Information Regarding Managed Care Organizations**

This *Update* contains fee-for-service policy for members enrolled in Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus who receive pharmacy services on a fee-for-service basis only. Pharmacy services for Medicaid members enrolled in the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) and the Family Care Partnership program are provided by the member's managed care organization.

The *ForwardHealth Update* is the first source of program policy and billing information for providers.

Wisconsin Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, SeniorCare, and Wisconsin Chronic Disease Program are administered by the Division of Medicaid Services, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). The Wisconsin AIDS Drug Assistance Program and the Wisconsin Well Woman Program are administered by the Division of Public Health, DHS.

For questions, call Provider Services at 800-947-9627 or visit our website at [www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/](http://www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/).

P-1250

This *Update* was issued on 11/26/2018 and information contained in this *Update* was incorporated into the Online Handbook on 12/3/2018.