
WISCONSIN MEDICAID UPDATE

AUGUST 4, 1997

UPDATE 97-21

TO:

Blood Banks
Dispensing Physicians
HMOs and other Managed Care
Programs
Pharmacies

Ranitidine Is Now Available Generically

Medicaid coverage policy

Ranitidine, known under the brand name Zantac, is now available generically. Ranitidine is not currently on the Medicaid maximum allowed cost (MAC) list but will be in the future. Once ranitidine is on the MAC list, those physicians who wish to have their patients continue on Zantac will then be required to write the phrase "brand medically necessary" on each new prescription and nursing home order.

Wisconsin Medicaid requires prior authorization (PA) for ranitidine.

Continuing current Zantac PAs

If you continue your current Zantac PAs, you may only continue to dispense and bill for that product until ranitidine goes on the MAC list. When ranitidine goes on the MAC list, you must either amend the Zantac PA to ranitidine, or you must obtain a new prescription with the phrase "brand medically necessary" on each new prescription and nursing home order.

Amending currently approved Zantac PAs

Due to the large number of Zantac PAs, we encourage you to *begin amending* your current Zantac PAs where appropriate. If you have a currently approved PA for Zantac (ranitidine), remember that the PA system, both STAT PA

and paper PA, looks for a match between the National Drug Code (NDC) on your claim and the NDC on your approved PA.

Therefore, to bill any new ranitidine NDCs, you *must* have the corresponding current PA amended to include the new ranitidine NDC.

You may do this by *either* of two methods:

1. Call the STAT PA Help Desk at (608) 221-2096 or (800) 947-1197. Do not respond to the automatic instructions. Stay on the line until a "human voice" answers. Give this person the recipient's name, Medicaid number, and the Zantac approved PA number. Then give the ranitidine NDC you wish to dispense.
2. Send a separate letter requesting the addition of an NDC for each patient you wish to change. The letter must include the recipient's name, Medicaid number, and approved PA number. Send this information to:

EDS PRIOR AUTHORIZATION UNIT
6406 BRIDGE ROAD
SUITE 88
MADISON WI 53784-0088

For new ranitidine PA requests

If you are submitting a new PA request for ranitidine, use the new NDCs since they have been added to both the Medicaid STAT PA and paper systems.

POH 1565