



Pharmacy Policy Update

Effective June 1, 2009

Healthy Practices will continue to inform your office about new and updated policies. MVP encourages your office to look at all of the revisions and updates on a regular basis in the Benefit Interpretation Manual (BIM) located on www.mvphealthcare.com in the **References** section. The **update section will list** new policies and/or policy revisions at least 30 days prior to their effective date

Headache Therapy (*Notification of change can be found in the March/April Healthy Practices*)

Effective April 1, 2009, non-formulary medications to treat migraine headaches (Imitrex®, Zomig®, Amerge®, Axert®, Frova® and Treximet®) will require prior authorization. Covered formulary medications, subject to quantity limitations, will be sumatriptan, Maxalt/MLT® and Relpax®. In order to obtain a non-formulary, tier 3 triptan, a trial of sumatriptan and Maxalt/MLT® or Relpax® is required.

Zyvox® Policy

Effective June 1, 2009, the automated edit for infectious disease specialists will be removed. In addition, Zyvox® injection will require prior authorization.

Hepatitis B Oral Agents Policy

Effective June 1, 2009, prior authorization will no longer be required for Baraclude®, Hepsera® and Tyzeka®. Policy will remain in place and utilization will be subject to retrospective review.

Osteoporosis Policy

The requirement for SERM failure prior to injectable osteoporosis treatment was removed. Calcium requirements, based upon the National Osteoporosis Foundation recommendations, were updated.

Quantity Limits Policy

Quantity limit for Sancuso® of two (2) patches every 30 days was added. In addition, Aloxi® oral will be limited to 4 capsules every 30 days. Epi-pen® is limited to two pens every 30 days. Additional quantities will be subject to prior authorization.

Medication Recalls and Withdrawals

In the past several weeks, the Food and Drug Administration has recalled or withdrawn the following medications:

- **digoxin** (generic product manufactured by Caraco Pharmaceutical Laboratories, Ltd) was recalled because tablet size may differ and therefore contain more or less active ingredient. MVP has notified potential impacted members and prescribing providers.
- **Raptiva®** (efalizumab) will be withdrawn because of the potential risk to patients of developing progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML). By June 8, 2009, Raptiva will no longer be available in the United States. Prescribers are being asked not to initiate treatment for any new patients and begin discussing alternate therapies with their patients already using Raptiva. MVP has notified impacted members and prescribing providers.
- **propafenone 225mg** (generic product manufactured by Watson laboratories) One lot was voluntarily recalled because tablets may contain higher levels of the active ingredient.
- **ETHEX Laboratories** has recalled many of their products over the past few months because they may have been manufactured under conditions that did not sufficiently comply with current Good Manufacturing Practices. Some products had specific lots recalled due to defects found, including oversized tablets delivering higher than labeled doses. This recall has resulted in a national shortage of metoprolol XL, isosorbide mononitrate, morphine-sulfate immediate and extended release and many others. For a complete listing of all generics that have been recalled, go to www.fda.gov.

New Prior Authorization Forms

Beginning May 1, 2009, providers will have access to new drug specific prior authorization forms for the following policies:

- Biologic Drug Therapy for Inflammatory Arthritis
- Growth Hormone Therapy
- Select Agents for Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- Leukotriene Modifiers
- Xolair®

To obtain these forms go to www.mvphealthcare.com. Click on “Providers” then “Forms”. All medication prior authorization forms are listed under “Pharmacy”.

Medications removed from prior authorization

Effective June 1, 2009, Requip XL® and Durezol® no longer require prior authorization.