**ACTION ALERT TO GET MEDICAID FORMULARY PROBLEMS TO DR. JOSEPH!**

As some of you may know, I have been trying to get a handle on problems with the new single Medicaid formulary which went into effect on January 1, 2021. I have been sending problem descriptions that I received “from the field” to Dr. Jessin Joseph, Pharmacy Director at KY Medicaid, and copying Stephanie Bates, DMS Deputy Commissioner over the past week – 10 days. The problems are occurring not only with behavioral health medications, but across the broad spectrum of all medications!

Yesterday, Dr. Joseph sent me the attached notification from November about the single Medicaid formulary, information which had not been proactively shared with the Behavioral Health TAC and perhaps not with prescribers in the Medicaid system. I have attached it for your information.

Dr. Joseph has now requested **specific member information** (name, Medicaid ID number, DOB, name of medication, MCO involved) to be sent to him so that he can contact the MCO to resolve these critically-important issues. **At this point, I am urging you to be in touch directly with Dr. Joseph by sending him this information at:** Jessin.Joseph@ky.gov and copying Stephanie Bates at Stephanie.Bates@ky.gov

Please continue to send them each instance of a problem until we get this resolved! We will ask Dr. Joseph and Stephanie Bates to address these issues at our next Behavioral Health Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting on March 3, 2021.

Hi Sheila,

Please continue sending me updates. If you can, please have the providers share the MCO in question. This way we can go directly to the appropriate MCO.

If you can share examples with specific members (patient name, Medicaid ID number, DOB) and the medication they are unable to access, we can troubleshoot with the appropriate MCOs for hopefully a quicker fix. It will also help the MCO when it comes to understanding where there issue is system wide.

In terms of generic medications rejecting, this will be the case where the preferred drug list has brand name products preferred over their generic counterparts. The provider notice attached spoke to the situations when this would occur and listed the specific products (Page 2). This does apply in the case of Adderall XR and Concerta.

We have shared the list of drug products rejecting for PA when it should not with all MCOs. For preferred second generation antipsychotics, a diagnosis code is required as part of the clinical criteria. This can be automated and MCOs have been instructed to do so. The MCOs are allowed time to build this out. We have confirmed all MCOs will have this in place by the end of this month (1/31/2021). Certain MCOs have already been able to get this stood up.

It certainly can be the case that inhalers and other medications that were once preferred on the MCO preferred drug list is no longer preferred under the single preferred drug list. In these instances, the MCOs are instructed to follow the single PDL so a transition to the newly preferred product may be necessary.

Jessin

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