

MS Division of Medicaid Pharmacists' Guide to Dispensing 72-Hour Emergency Prescriptions

When Prior Authorization is Not Available for MS Medicaid Beneficiaries

Federal law requires that a 72-hour emergency supply of a prescribed drug be provided when a medication is needed without delay and prior authorization (PA) is not available. The rule applies to non-preferred drugs listed in the Preferred Drug List and any drug that is affected by clinical or PA edits and would need prescriber prior approval. 72-hour emergency prescriptions count against monthly service limits.

The 72-hour emergency supply should be dispensed any time a PA is not available and the prescribed drug must be filled. If the prescriber cannot be reached or is unable to request the PA, the pharmacy should submit an emergency 72-hour prescription. Pharmacist should use his/her professional judgment regarding whether or not there is an immediate need every time the 72-hour option is used. The 72-hour emergency procedure should not be used for routine and continuous overrides.

A pharmacy can dispense a product that is packaged in a dosage form that is fixed and unbreakable, e.g. an albuterol inhaler, as a 72-hour emergency supply.

PHARMACY BILLING INSTRUCTIONS:

- **A value of '3' in the level of service (Field 418-DI).**
- **A value of '3' in the Day Supply Field (Field 405-D5).**
- **The quantity submitted in the Quantity Dispensed field (Field 442-E7) should not exceed the quantity necessary for a three-day supply according to the directions for administration given by the prescriber.**
- **For unbreakable packaging, included but not limited to, inhalers, antibiotic suspensions, or otic drops, a pharmacy should follow the same directions for the 72-hour emergency supply including entering the full quantity dispensed and either entering the *correct days supply* or a '3' day supply.**

Pharmacist must contact the prescriber for the remainder of the prescription, if needed.

For PA assistance call the Medicaid Pharmacy PA unit at 1-877-537-0722. PA requests may be faxed to 1-877-537-0720.

For billing assistance call ACS at 1-800-884-3222.

Beneficiaries may be referred to 1-800-421-2408 or 601-359-6050 for assistance.



