



Provider Notice 13-108

Dear Provider:

Effective for dates of service on and after January 1, 2014, the Medicaid Program of the Health Care Authority (agency) will require pharmacies to dispense oral, transdermal, and intra-vaginal contraceptives as a one-time prescription of a 12-month supply (13 cycles). The agency encourages prescribers to include a dispensing quantity of a 12-month supply (13 cycles) on oral, transdermal, and intra-vaginal contraceptive prescriptions. For prescriptions written with a dispensing quantity less than a 12-month supply (13 cycles) you will begin receiving requests from pharmacies to change the dispensing quantity.

The agency is making this change as an attempt to reduce unintended pregnancy rates within our client population. According to [U.S. Selected Practice Recommendations for Contraceptive Use, MMWR volume 62, 2013](#), "The more pill packs given up to 13 cycles, the higher the continuation rates." Further, the MMWR states, "In addition to continuation, a greater number of pill packs provided was associated with fewer pregnancy tests, fewer pregnancies, and lower cost per client."

Quantity Required for twelve-month (13 cycles) to be dispensed	
Oral contraceptives, e.g. pills	364
Transdermal contraceptives, e.g. patch	39
Intra-vaginal contraceptives, e.g. ring	13

These and other changes will be made the Prescription Drug Program Medicaid Provider Guide later this month.

Thank you.

BC-AL
 Provider Publications Team
 Medicaid Program
 Health Care Authority

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