



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

626 8th Avenue, SE • P.O. Box 45502 • Olympia, Washington 98504-5502

June 16, 2017

Dear Pharmacies and Managing Pharmacists:

SUBJECT: Information about a Potential State Government Shutdown

We want to share information about a potential state government shutdown if a 2017-19 state budget is not enacted by July 1, 2017.

Our intent is to continue covering prescription and over-the-counter medications for Washington Apple Health (Medicaid) and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) clients. However, we will be unable to issue payments to Medicaid and CHIP fee-for-service providers until a budget is passed.

What does this mean for Medicaid-contracted pharmacies?

- You should see no change for clients covered under Medicaid managed care plans. The managed care plans will remain fully operational, and you should conduct business with them as usual.
- The Pharmacy Point-of-Sale claim payment system will continue to process Medicaid fee-for-service claims for payment. Please continue to bill the agency as usual.
- Actual payment to pharmacies via check or automatic funds transfer will not be issued until a budget is passed. Our expectation is that the usual weekly payment cycle from Medicaid will be interrupted until a budget is enacted, at which time the next regular payment cycle will reflect full payment for services provided in the interim.
- It will not be possible to contact the agency for authorization of pharmacy claims that reject due to the authorization requirement. The agency requests that you continue to provide medications to clients under our emergency fill policy, which can be found at www.hca.wa.gov/assets/billers-and-providers/emergency_fill_policy.pdf.
- When providing medications to Medicaid fee-for-service clients under the emergency fill policy, please dispense the client's medication despite claim rejection. You must fax the authorization request form (form number 13-835a) to 1-866-668-1214, indicating "Emergency Fill" in the comments field at the end of the form. This will ensure claim review and avoid payment denial for lack of prior authorization. Pharmacies may also contact Pharmacy Authorizations at 1-800-562-3022 Extension 15483 to report their emergency fills *after a budget is enacted and the agency reopens*.

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Our hope is that the budget will be enacted before July 1. However, we must plan for the unlikely event that a budget agreement cannot be reached. We will provide updates on our website at www.hca.wa.gov as frequently as they are needed through June 30.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the health of Washington State.

Sincerely,



Dorothy F. Teeter, MHA
Director



Daniel Lessler, MD
Chief Medical Officer