

Provider Update

Pharmacy First-Fill 15-Day Supply Program

Summary of Change: Effective April 10, 2014, a first-fill program of a 15-day supply will be implemented for oral oncology and hepatitis B and C agents.

✦ **What this means to you:** For oral oncology and hepatitis B and C agents, the initial fill will be limited to a 15-day supply to allow the member to try the drug and assess tolerance. The initial fill will be restricted at the point of sale with an alert message to the pharmacy that the first fill is limited to a 15-day supply. Review this information and work with your patients to educate them on the First-Fill 15-day supply program.

Background: Results of a nine-month study of a partial-fill program for 15 oral oncology agents showed that 41 percent of patients discontinued therapy after the first month of the prescribed therapy, and nearly 20 percent stopped therapy after one partial fill due to adverse effects.

Various studies have shown a high rate of discontinuation of protease inhibitors for hepatitis C and interferon. As many as 30 to 40 percent of patients do not respond satisfactorily to the first drug prescribed for chronic conditions with agents known to have high incidence of side effects (e.g., oncology, hepatitis B/C)¹.

What is the impact of this First-Fill 15-Day Supply Program? Only the first fill for prescriptions for oral oncology and hepatitis B and C agents will be limited to a 15-day supply. This will enable the member to try the drug and evaluate tolerance. The initial fill will be restricted at the point of sale with an alert message to the pharmacy that the first fill is limited to 15 days. All subsequent fills can be dispensed for the full 30-day supply or as deemed appropriate by the prescriber.

What if I need assistance? You can find the list of oral oncology and hepatitis B and C agents on our provider self-service site at providers.amerigroup.com. Select Quick Tools > Pharmacy tools from the home page.

If you need assistance with any other item, contact your local Provider Relations representative or call our Provider Services team at 1-800-454-3730.

¹Source - *Managed Healthcare Executive*; **Short fills save costs, reduce medication waste; 11/1/2013**