

REMINDER: Change in Coverage of Benzodiazepines and Barbiturates for Dual Eligible Population

As noted in the September 2012 issue of the Medicaid Update, for prescriptions dispensed on or after January 1, 2013, Medicare Part D prescription drug plans and MA-PD plans will be required to cover benzodiazepines for any condition and barbiturates used for the treatment of epilepsy, cancer, or a chronic mental health disorder. Only drugs that are excluded by law from being covered by the Medicare Part D plans are covered by NYS Medicaid for dual eligibles (Medicare/Medicaid). As a result, **effective January 1, 2013, NYS Medicaid will no longer provide dual eligibles with coverage of benzodiazepines for any condition and barbiturates when prescribed for Medicare Part D covered indications.**

NYS Medicaid will continue to provide coverage of barbiturates for dual eligibles when prescribed for indications not covered by Medicare Part D. In addition, NYS Medicaid continues to cover benzodiazepines and barbiturates for NYS Medicaid beneficiaries who are not Medicare eligible. Barbiturates prescribed for dual-eligibles with a history of Medicare Part D covered indications will be subject to prior authorization and will require documentation of Medicare Part D denial.