

Medicare Modernization Act

DHS MMA Project

Date: April 11, 2006

To: Prescribing Providers and Pharmacy Providers

From: Allison Knight, Manager 
OMAP Program and Policy Unit

Subject: Discontinuation of Temporary Override for Medicare Part D Prescriptions

Effective midnight, April 30, 2006, the Department of Human Services (DHS) will terminate the temporary override option for prescription medications that Medicare Part D should cover. DHS staff will not be available to authorize overrides after 5 p.m. that day. We encourage providers to seek authorizations prior to this deadline. OMAP will not pay any claims for Medicare-covered drugs submitted after April 30, even if the date of service was earlier.

In January, at the Governor's request, DHS began authorizing an emergency override for Medicare Part D prescription medications for clients who have both Medicare and Medicaid coverage and who couldn't obtain their prescriptions through the Medicare system.

This was a temporary solution devised to ensure that our clients would not go without their prescriptions. The Governor has now directed us to end the workaround.

Thank you for your continued support of the Oregon Health Plan and for helping our dual eligible clients transition to their new prescription drug coverage.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact either Monica Herrera, OMAP MMA Pharmacy Coordinator, monica.herrera@state.or.us (503) 945-5916, or Brian Olson, OMAP Pharmacy Policy Analyst, (503) 945-6492, brian.olson@state.or.us. The DHS Medicare Hotline, 1 (877) 585-0007, remains available to assist you with problems your dual eligible clients are experiencing with their Medicare prescription drug coverage.

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