

**CHANGES TO MISSISSIPPI DIVISION OF MEDICAID (DOM)  
GUIDELINES FOR THE PRESCRIBING OF CITALOPRAM  
Mailed June 2017**

**BACKGROUND**

In recent years the FDA has issued multiple safety notices regarding the prescribing of citalopram. Under Mississippi Medicaid's current Universal Preferred Drug List (UPDL), citalopram is a preferred product.

In April 2017, DOM's DUR Board recommended updating the prescribing criteria for citalopram addressing the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) multiple safety updates related to its dosing and warning recommendations. The following criteria were implemented in Medicaid's electronic prior authorization system in July 2017:

- Limit total daily dose of citalopram to a maximum of 40 mg/day for beneficiaries less than age 60 years.
- Limit total daily dose of citalopram to a maximum of 20 mg/day for beneficiaries greater than 60 years.
- Change minimum age limit from 9 years to 18 years (***current users will be grandfathered and this change will apply only to new starts***).

**MAILING**

MS-DUR extracted all prescriptions for citalopram filled between January 1, 2016 and January 31, 2017 and paid for by fee-for-service (FFS), United Healthcare, or Magnolia. Beneficiaries were identified who were prescribed citalopram outside of the new criteria. 402 unique prescribers were identified as being associated with these prescriptions. Each prescriber was mailed the attached letter.



May 30, 2017

MD\_NAME  
MD\_ADDRESS  
MD\_ADDRESS, MS, MD\_ZIP

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT CHANGE IN  
CITALOPRAM PRESCRIBING**

Dear Medicaid Provider:

As part of Medicaid's ongoing MS-DUR (Drug Utilization Review) Program, criteria for citalopram are being implemented July 1, 2017 addressing the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) multiple safety updates related to its dosing and warning recommendations.

You have been identified as a provider who has prescribed citalopram during the past year to a Medicaid beneficiary that did not meet one or more of the below criteria:

- Limit total daily dose of citalopram to a maximum of 40 mg/day for beneficiaries less than age 60 years.
- Limit total daily dose of citalopram to a maximum of 20 mg/day for beneficiaries greater than 60 years.
- Change minimum age limit from 9 years to 18 years (*current users will be grandfathered and this change will apply only to new starts*).

Any doses or ages exceeding the changes listed in the criteria will be required to be processed through manual PA requests. A manual PA will not be required for prescriptions that meet the criteria listed above. Please note the change in the age limit from 9 years to 18 years will only apply to *new starts* on citalopram. Beneficiaries between the ages of 9 to 17 *currently taking citalopram* will be allowed to continue receiving this therapy.

We wanted to inform you about the new clinical edits that are being implemented so that you may plan appropriately for uninterrupted care of your patients. These changes and several others can be found on the Preferred Drug List (PDL) which will go into effect July 1. The current PDL can be found at:  
<https://medicaid.ms.gov/providers/pharmacy/preferred-drug-list/>.

If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Eric Pittman, PharmD  
Clinical Director  
MS-DUR

Terri R. Kirby, RPh, CPM  
Director, Office of Pharmacy  
Division of Medicaid

