



From the Senior Medical Director

Ten years ago in this newsletter, it was noted that Virginia Premier Health Plan, Inc. had “witnessed an extraordinary sense of support and energy from our provider network”. That statement is still true in 2014. Thanks so much for your continuing support of Virginia Premier as the company continues to provide excellent and quality healthcare services for our 175,000 members.

Healthcare Data and Information Set (HEDIS) The nurses have completed the chart reviews in your offices and the information has been submitted to the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). Virginia Premier will update you when all tabulations are completed and rankings have been posted. Once again we anticipate being one of the best Medicaid HMOs in the USA, and certainly in the State of Virginia. Again, thanks for all of the assistance and cooperation given to our Quality Nurses who visited your offices.

PHARMACY UPDATE

Javier Menendez, our AVP of Pharmacy, has an article in this newsletter that you will find extremely informative. He continues to add tremendous value to our medical team as he and his pharmacy group coordinate our daily pharmacy operations with our Pharmacy Benefits Manager (PBM) Envisions Rx. If you have questions about Pharmacy issues please send them to our Pharmacy Department here at Virginia Premier.

CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

Virginia Premier has placed all of the Clinical Practice Guidelines on our website, www.virginiapremier.com. If you would like a hard copy of any of these guidelines, please contact medical management at 804 819-5151. Virginia Premier continues to encourage use of these guidelines which are reviewed and updated annually by your provider colleagues and peers from across the state.

New Medical Directors

In addition to our CMO, Dr. Renee Miskimmin, Virginia Premier is happy to announce that Dr. Mark Mattingly and Dr. Helen Ragazzi have joined us. They all have been a tremendous addition to our company and bring a wealth of knowledge and experience. You will be hearing from them from time to time.

Enjoy the beautiful summer and contact Virginia Premier with any concerns.

Melvin T. Pinn, Jr. MD, MPH, FAAFP

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Finance Corner

ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER (DIRECT DEPOSIT):

We encourage Payees to elect to have the Electronic Funds Transfer payment method. That will ensure that you will always get paid by direct deposit into your bank account on the actual payment date of Friday (with the exception of holidays) or Monday, depending on where you bank. This helps to avoid delays in payment receipt for postal deliveries. If you would like to be set up for EFT payments, please go to the Virginia Premier website and download the EFT Set up form. You will find the instructions on that form.

REMINDERS FOR YEAR END:

If you have changed your tax identification number, address, Medicaid provider number, legal business name, or if you have any other contractual changes please forward a W-9, along with your changes, to the Contracting department. Doing this can help you avoid possible IRS regulated fines and/or withholdings from your claim, capitation and/or management fee payments. In addition, any changes made without a W-9 attached will delay your payments. Also, if you notice that the name on your check is not the name that matches your entity tax identification name submitted to the IRS, please contact the Contracting department promptly with the correct information.

Compliance Corner

Exclusion Statute [42 U.S.C. § 1320a-7]

The U. S. Department of Health & Human Services, Office of Inspector General (OIG), is required to exclude individuals and entities convicted of Medicare or Medicaid fraud, as well as other criminal offenses, from participation in all Federal health care programs.

What is the effect of a program exclusion?

- No payment may be made by any Federal health care program, which includes Virginia Premier, for any items or service furnished, ordered, or prescribed by an excluded individual or entity.
- The prohibition applies to the excluded person, anyone who employees or contracts with the excluded person, and any hospital or other provider or supplier where the excluded person provides services. The exclusion applies, regardless of who submits the claims. It also applies to all administrative and management services furnished by the excluded person.

How do you check to see if an individual or entity is excluded?

- The List of Excluded Individuals and Entities (LEIE) must be checked upon hire and monthly thereafter: www.oig.hhs.gov/fraud/exclusions.asp.

The database is downloadable or searchable online, by name or business name.

Medical Management

Pharmacy-Adult Attention Deficient Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

ADHD generally starts in early childhood, but in some cases it's not diagnosed until later in life. It was once thought that ADHD was limited to childhood. But symptoms frequently persist into adulthood. For some people, adult ADHD causes significant problems that improve with treatment.

While different adults respond differently to various medications and a full range of medications need to be available for appropriate treatment, short-acting stimulants are more often misused, abused, or illegally sold or purchased as a drug of abuse. The risks for abuse of prescription and illicit stimulants are elevated among individuals being treated for ADHD with increased potential for "diversion" due to the possible euphoria effect or the improvement of study skills. Prescription agents abused most often are those with pharmacokinetic characteristics that provide a rapid rise of dopamine and serotonin while the longer-acting stimulants often have lower abuse potential and less street value.

As a result of our Drug Utilization Review, Virginia Premier is removing short acting amphetamine tablets from the formulary. The Long acting capsules will remain with a prior approval in place; these medications also have the additional advantages of improved compliance, less peak-trough effects that can be seen with twice or thrice daily dosing of immediate-release ADHD medications on dosing, as well as the reduced potential for drug diversion.

Pharmacy-Formulary Update added the following drugs:

- Nasacort Allergy® OTC
- Nexium® 24HR OTC
- TUDORZA™ PRESSAIR™ is now the preferred COPD anticholinergic inhaler
- FIRST®-Lansoprazole Suspension and FIRST®-Omeprazole Suspension

Contact Us

Member Services (800) 727-7536, Press 1

EnvisionRxOptions (855) 872-0005

Smiles for Children (888) 912-3456

TTY (Text Service) (800) 828-1120

McKesson Nurseline(800) 256-1982

FAMIS Central Processing Unit (CPU) (866) 873-2647

Transportation (800) 727-7536, Press 2

VSP (800) 877-7195 / (800) 852-7600

AT&T Language Line (800) 774-4344

TDD (Voice Service) (800) 828-1140

Managed Care Helpline (800) 643-2273

Compliance Helpline (800) 620-1438

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