



Date: March 14, 2016

To: Participating AmeriHealth Caritas VIP Care Plus Providers

Re: Pharmacy Information - Ventolin Drug Shortage and MACRA Notice

Ventolin Drug Shortage:

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) has recently released information that GlaxoSmithKline has announced a shortage in Ventolin (albuterol) metered dose inhalers. Pharmacies will dispense their stock, but we want to do everything we can to ensure our members can receive their medications. We are asking that you write for "Albuterol MDI" with package size indicative of the number of inhalers you want as opposed to actual package size. This will allow pharmacists at point of sale to substitute our preferred products based on their stock. AmeriHealth Caritas VIP Care Plus prefers Ventolin and Proventil Metered Dose Inhalers, so by writing generically the pharmacy will be able to adjust on a case-by-case basis. Below is the information from ASHP regarding the Ventolin shortage. Thank you for helping our members.

Products Affected – Description:

- Ventolin HFA inhalation aerosol, GlaxoSmithKline
- 0.09 mg/1 actuation, 8 gram metered dose inhaler, institutional pack 1 count (NDC 00173-0682-24)
- 0.09 mg/1 actuation, 8 gram metered dose inhaler, 1 count (NDC 00173-0682-21)
- 0.09 mg/1 actuation, 18 gram metered dose inhaler, 1 count (NDC 00173-0682-20)

Reason for the Shortage:

GlaxoSmithKline could not provide a reason for the shortage.

Available Products:

- Proventil HFA inhalation aerosol, Merck
- 0.09 mg/1 actuation, 6.7 gram metered dose inhaler, 1 count (NDC 00085-1132-01)

Estimated Resupply Dates:

GlaxoSmithKline has Ventolin HFA 8 gram inhalers on back order and the company estimates a release date in late-February 2016. Ventolin HFA 18 gram inhalers are on back order and the company cannot estimate a release date.

More information is available at:

<http://www.ashp.org/menu/DrugShortages/CurrentShortages/Bulletin.aspx?id=1217#sthash.Op97HoPb.dpuf>



MACRA Notice:

On April 16, 2015, President Obama signed Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) into law. As part of this Act, effective January 1, 2016, claims for all Part D drugs must include a valid prescriber NPI number. Claims without a valid prescriber NPI number must be rejected at the point of sale.

After January 1, 2016, when a prescription is filed for a drug prescribed by a provider without an NPI number on record the claim will be rejected. When this occurs pharmacies will receive and are required to verbally communicate to the member that the pharmacy cannot fill the prescription for the following reason:

“Claim not covered due to failure to meet Medicare Part D active, valid prescriber NPI requirement”.

AmeriHealth Caritas VIP Care Plus wanted to alert you and your staff that your office may receive communication from the pharmacy or the AmeriHealth Caritas VIP Care Plus member to resolve this issue. AmeriHealth Caritas VIP Care Plus encourages prescribers to communicate their NPI number to pharmacies they routinely utilize, in addition including their NPI number on prescriptions.

If you should have any questions regarding this new requirement, or for more information on which member or pharmacy claims may be missing the required information, please email VIPProviderComm@amerihealthcaritas.com.

Thank you for partnering with AmeriHealth Caritas VIP Care Plus where members and providers are treated like the VIP they are.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Nichols".

Dr. Karen Nichols
Chief Medical Officer VIP Plans