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Department of Health Care Services
Children's Medical Services Network
(CMS Net) - Information Bulletin #230

Reimbursement of Sexual or Erectile Dysfunction Drugs and Products for Pulmonary Hypertension **REVISED**

On December 22, 2005, an email was sent to all CCS medical directors and consultants advising that only Revatio® (and not Viagra®) should be approved for treatment of pulmonary hypertension, beginning January 1, 2006.

In addition, beginning April 1, 2006, the following phosphodiesterase type 5 inhibitor drugs were restricted: Viagra®, Levitra®, and Cialis®. These drugs are zero-priced in the claims system, indicating that claims for these drugs will be paid zero dollars (\$0).

These actions were taken to comply with: 1) federal legislation (HR 3971) that forbids federal funds for treatment of sexual or erectile dysfunction and only allows for its FDA approved use; 2): Welfare and Institutions Code 14132(d), precluding Medi-Cal (including CCS and GHPP) coverage without federal financial participation.

To conform to federal law, when manufacturers obtain approval of their phosphodiesterase type 5 inhibitor drugs for use in pulmonary arterial hypertension, they have renamed the drug with a different brand name. In addition, generic forms of sildenafil citrate powder are now commercially available. [However, as of March 16, 2011, bulk](#)

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drug chemicals (aka active pharmaceutical ingredients or APIs) like sildenafil powder are no longer payable under the Medicaid system (Medi-Cal, including CCS and GHPP).

Therefore, CCS Counties should only approve the following phosphodiesterase type 5 inhibitor drugs that have FDA approved use for pulmonary arterial hypertension:

Drug Generic Name	Drug Brand Name	FDA Approved Use	Dose Form	Route
Sildenafil Citrate	Revatio	Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension only	Tablet	Oral
Sildenafil Citrate	Revatio	Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension only	Injection Solution	IV
Tadalafil	Adcirca	Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension only	Tablet	Oral
Sildenafil Citrate Powder	Sildenafil Citrate Powder	For compounding a solution for pulmonary arterial hypertension	Powder	Oral

Should you have any questions, contact:

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