



State of California-Health and Human Services Agency  
Department of Health Services



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER  
Governor

December 27, 2006

Genetically Handicapped Persons Program  
Policy Letter: G-03-1206

TO: All Special Care Center (SCC) Medical Directors and Staff

SUBJECT: Genetically Handicapped Persons Program (GHPP) Protocol for  
Automatic Approval of Drug Services

The purpose of this policy letter is to inform the SCCs of the opportunity to utilize an automatic approval of drug services for GHPP clients under certain conditions and circumstances. Effective January 1, 2007, the GHPP will process claims for payment for outpatient drug services from participating pharmacies, without the need for prior authorization, when circumstances, conditions, limits, and client eligibility requirements have been met:

### **Circumstances**

Under the following circumstances, the GHPP protocol for Automatic Approval of Drug Services will be allowed:

- After State business hours.
- When the GHPP office is closed for the weekend or holidays.

### **Conditions**

The following medications may be dispensed without obtaining prior authorization if the above listed circumstances were met:

- Antibiotics- new or continuing prescriptions up to a 30 day supply may be dispensed and claimed without obtaining prior authorization. The pharmacy must fax a copy of the prescription and a request for prior authorization [service authorization request (SAR) form] to the GHPP the SAME day the medication is dispensed. In addition, pharmacy claims must have a notation in the "Remarks" box that the dispensing was made under the "GHPP Protocol for Automatic Approval of Drug Services".

- Narcotics - new or continuing prescriptions, up to a seven day supply may be dispensed and claimed without obtaining prior authorization. The pharmacy must fax a copy of the prescription and a request for prior authorization (SAR form) to the GHPP the SAME day the medication is dispensed. In addition, pharmacy claims must have a notation in the "Remarks" box that the dispensing was made under "GHPP Protocol for Automatic Approval of Drug Services".
- Anti-Virals - new or continuing prescriptions, up to a 30 day supply may be dispensed and claimed without obtaining prior authorization. The pharmacy must fax a copy of the prescription and a request for prior authorization (SAR form) to the GHPP the SAME day the medication is dispensed. In addition, pharmacy claims must have a notation in the "Remarks" box that the dispensing was made under "GHPP Protocol for Automatic Approval of Drug Services".

### **Limits**

- For narcotics only-one dispensing per pharmacy per incident. For continuing coverage of the dispensed narcotic, the pharmacy must submit a request for prior authorization to the GHPP. Any second claim for narcotics (without prior authorization) will be denied.

### **Client Eligibility**

- The pharmacy will be responsible to verify active GHPP enrollment prior to dispensing drugs under the "GHPP Protocol for Automatic Approval of Drug Services". Claims for services rendered to clients who are no longer enrolled in the GHPP cannot be paid.
- The pharmacy must bill a GHPP client's other health coverage first before billing the GHPP. Other health coverage includes, but is not limited to Medicare Part D, commercial health insurance, Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans, and health maintenance organization coverage. The pharmacy may only claim the amount not paid by other health coverage up to the Medi-Cal maximum payment amount. The pharmacy must attach an Explanation of Benefits (EOBs) of payment of other health coverage with the claim. Claims will be returned if other health coverage determination EOB's are not submitted.

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The GHPP will not pay for services merely due to a claim denial by other health coverage. The service must be specifically excluded from coverage under the other health coverage. Requirements for exceptions processing or prior authorization does not qualify as excluded from coverage. Claims will be returned for other health coverage determinations.

- For GHPP clients with Medicare Part D coverage, antibiotics, narcotics, and anti-viral drugs are not specifically excluded from coverage. **GHPP will not pay claims under this protocol for claims denied by Part D plans.**

If the above medications are written by your SCCs for GHPP clients and the above conditions, limits, client's eligibility and circumstances are met; please provide a copy of this policy letter to the pharmacy that will be dispensing the medication. Thank you for your assistance in the implementation of this policy. If you have any questions, please contact the GHPP at (800) 639-0597.

Sincerely,

**Original Signed by Marian Dalsey, M.D., M.P.H.**

Marian Dalsey, M.D., M.P.H., Chief  
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