



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Division of Medicaid & Medical Assistance

Dear Pharmacy Provider:

The Division of Medicaid & Medical Assistance will be including clonazepam products in the quantity limitation of benzodiazepines of 120 tablets per 30 days. This change is being made with the support of the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health and based on recommendations from the National Institute of Health (NIH). Clients who require greater than 120 tablets per month of all benzodiazepine medications will require a letter of medical necessity and documentation of diagnosis.

Benzodiazepines are effective in a wide range of medical and psychiatric conditions. However, caution must be exercised with their use, particularly when these agents are prescribed in excessive quantities or for long durations. Benzodiazepines are recognized as major drugs of abuse, dependence and diversion. Extensive use has caused concerns over potential for falls, accidents, dependence and tolerance, withdrawal reactions, and drug related deaths. Other risks related to benzodiazepines are well-documented and include sedation, psychomotor disruption, memory impairment and paradoxical agitation.

In order to curb overutilization and to prevent illicit drug use and distribution, it is recommended to limit benzodiazepines to short term durations, to limited quantities, and to use only a single benzodiazepine agent at a time. If you have further questions, please contact Pharmacy Services at the telephone number listed below.

Contact Pharmacy Services at:

302-454-7154, option 0, option 1

or

1-800-999-3371 in DE, MD, NJ, PA, and DC

