

## The PEEHIP Board Approves New Prescription Drug Changes

**Step Therapy Program Changes:** The PEEHIP Board approved an expansion of the Step Therapy drug program by adding three new drug classes effective October 1, 2009. The Board also approved enhancements to an existing Step Therapy drug class effective June 1, 2009. The two charts and the information below explain the three new step therapy programs and the enhancements to the current program.

**Expansion of the Step Therapy Program is effective October 1, 2009**, and will apply to new prescriptions written on or after **October 1, 2009**. Members who are currently taking the brand-name medications will be grandfathered in and will not be subject to the step therapy process if there has not been more than a 130-day lapse in the purchase dates.

New Step Therapy Program Name	Indication	Try one of these generic first step drugs:	If the prescription is for one of these brand second step drugs:
Fenofibrates	High Cholesterol	fenofibrate	ANTARA, FENOGLIDE, LIPOFEN, LIFIBRA, TRICOR, TRIGLIDE, TRILIPIX
Mirapex/Requip	Restless Leg Syndrome; Parkinson's Disease	ropinirole	MIRAPEX, REQUIP XL
Cholinesterase Inhibitors (ChIs)	Alzheimer's Disease	galantamine galantamine er	ARICEPT, ARICEPT ODT, EXELON, COGNEX, RAZADYNE, RAZADYNE ER

**Enhancements to the ARB drug class of the Step Therapy Program are effective June 1, 2009**, and involve changing this drug class to a 3-step program. All of the non-preferred drug brands that were in Step 2 will move to the new Step 3. The preferred drugs that were in Step 2 will remain in Step 2. Members who are currently taking the preferred and non-preferred brand medications will be grandfathered in and will not be subject to the step therapy process if there has not been more than a 130-day lapse in the purchase dates.

Step Therapy Program Name	1st Step Drugs	2nd Step Drugs	New 3rd Step Drugs
Angiotension Receptor Blockers (ARBs) <u>Indication:</u> High Blood Pressure	(ACE INHIBITORS)  <u>Generics:</u> benazepril, captopril, enalapril, fosinopril, lisinopril, moexipril, quinapril, ramipril,trandolapril  <u>Generic Combinations:</u> benazepril/amloride, benazepril/hctz, captopril/hctz, enalapril/hctz, fosinopril/hctz , lisinopril/hctz, moexipril/hctz, quinapril/hctz	(ARBS)  <u>Preferred Brands:</u> COZAAR, DIOVAN  <u>Preferred Brand Combinations:</u> AZOR, DIOVAN HCTEXFORGE, HYZAAR	(ARBS)  <u>Non-preferred Brands:</u> ATACAND, AVAPRO, BENICAR, MICARDIS, TEVETEN  <u>Non-preferred Brand Combinations:</u> ATACAND HCT, AVALIDE, BENICAR HCT, MICARDIS HCT, TEVETEN HCT

**Non-Preferred Drug Maxalt becomes Preferred Drug on June 1, 2009:** The PEEHIP Board approved adding the drug **Maxalt** to the PEEHIP Formulary (Preferred Drug List) beginning **June 1, 2009**. The copayment for Maxalt will decrease to \$30.

**Quantity Level Limit (QLL) Requirements:** Effective October 1, 2009, the PEEHIP Board approved certain medications to be included in the Drug Quantity Management program for the following conditions: Asthma, Allergies, Bone Conditions, Depression, Diabetes, Nausea/Vomiting, Heartburn/Ulcers, High Blood Pressure, High Blood Cholesterol, Hormone Supplementation, Infections, Mood Stabilizers, Migraines, Narcotics, Pain, Skin Conditions, and Urinary Conditions. Drug Quantity Management (DQM) is designed to make the use of prescription drugs safer and more affordable. It provides

you with medicines you need for your health and the health of your family, while making sure you receive medication in the amount or quantity considered safe.

For the medications included in this program, you can receive an amount to last you a certain number of days. For instance, the program will provide a maximum of 30 pills for a medicine you take once a day. This gives you the right amount to take the daily dose considered safe and effective, according to guidelines from the U.S Food & Drug Administration (FDA). This program includes drugs that could have safety issues for you if the quantity is larger than the guidelines recommend. For instance, it includes drugs that are not easily measured out, like nasal sprays or inhalers. Additionally, the program also controls the cost of "extra" supplies that could go to waste in your medicine cabinet. Drugs that come in several strengths are also included in this program.

When you take fewer doses of a higher strength, you save because you pay fewer copayments. PEEHIP can save too as taking your prescribed dose in a higher strength pill also helps save costs because PEEHIP pays for fewer pills. By saving on drug costs, we can continue to control the rising cost of prescription drugs for everyone in PEEHIP. All members taking one or more of these medications for a quantity greater than the new quantity level limit and who had or will have claims filed during the period February 1, 2009, through September 30, 2009, will receive notification in writing prior to the October 1, 2009, effective date of the quantity level limit change.

**Flu Medications – Quantity Level Limit (QLL) Changes.** The PEEHIP prescription drug plan covers the antiviral medications **Tamiflu** and **Relenza** in quantities that are safe and effective. The plan utilizes a "per prescription" QLL that will cover one course of treatment per prescription copayment. Additionally, PEEHIP utilizes a "per days supply" QLL of two treatments per flu season. Clinical overrides on the QLL are available for patients who travel to flu-infected locales and for patients needing additional courses of therapy if there has been a CDC-confirmed influenza outbreak in their community. To obtain a clinical override, the doctor's office may call the ESI Prior Authorization Department toll free at 800.347.5841 for a Prior Authorization Review. These QLLs are needed to avert over-utilization of antiviral medications which can contribute to viral resistance, making these medications ineffective, and to prevent inappropriate increases in demand for these medications that are available in limited supplies if a widespread influenza outbreak were to occur. ■

## FREE MEDICATIONS!



**T**he Board approved the **Zero Dollar Copayment Program** effective

October 1, 2009, which will allow members another opportunity to save money on their copayments for up to **four months** when they switch from taking certain brand name medications to taking the generic therapeutic alternative medication during the period of October 1, 2009, through January 31, 2010.

**During this four-month period**

**your copayment will be \$0** if you use one of the listed generic alternatives. PEEHIP implemented a similar Zero Dollar Copayment program during this time period last year and found it to be a huge success in saving our members money on their copayments and saving PEEHIP money on lower priced generics.

All members who have had two or more processed claims for one or more of these targeted brand name drugs during May through August 2009 will receive a letter from Express Scripts in August about eligibility for PEEHIP's Zero Dollar Copayment Program. The drug categories included in the Zero Dollar Copayment program are cholesterol, high blood pressure, pain and inflammation, bone conditions, and heartburn and ulcer medications. PEEHIP will publish the full list of medications included in this Zero Dollar Copayment Program in the next PEEHIP Newsletter and on the PEEHIP Web site. ■