

RETRODUR INTERVENTION NOTICE: RIFAXIMIN (XIFAXAN®)

October 3, 2013

Dear Prescriber,

The New York State Medicaid Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Program retrospectively reviews the prescribing and dispensing of outpatient prescription medications in order to ensure that prescriptions are appropriate, medically necessary, and are not likely to result in adverse medical outcomes. The New York State Medicaid DUR Board has reviewed rifaximin (Xifaxan®) utilization within the NY Medicaid program.

New York State Medicaid pharmacy claim data indicates that you have written prescription(s) for rifaximin (Xifaxan®). Please consider the following information before prescribing rifaximin, as the DUR Program is concerned that there may be utilization of this medication that is not consistent with FDA approved labeling.

Rifaximin (Xifaxan®) is only **FDA-approved for:**

- **Hepatic encephalopathy.**
- **The treatment of traveler's diarrhea** caused by noninvasive strains of *Escherichia coli*. It should not be used for patients with diarrhea complicated by blood in the stool or due to pathogens other than *E. coli*.

NYS Board recommended **current DUR interventions** include:

- Rifaximin (Xifaxan®) is subject to step therapy when prescribed for traveler's diarrhea, requiring trial of a preferred fluoroquinolone before rifaximin treatment.
- Rifaximin (Xifaxan) is subject to quantity limits:
 - For traveler's diarrhea (200 mg tabs) - 9 tablets per 30 days
(Dose = 200 mg three times a day for 3 days)
 - For hepatic encephalopathy (550 mg tabs) - 60 tablets per 30 days
(Dose = 550 mg twice a day)

In presenting this information to you, the DUR Program recognizes that safe and effective pharmacotherapy depends on the assessment of the patient's entire clinical profile. We ask that you consider the information provided regarding the prescribing of rifaximin (Xifaxan®) therapy for your patients.

Thank you for your professional assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

John F. Naioti, Jr., R.Ph.
Manager, Drug Utilization Review Program