



**RETRODUR INTERVENTION NOTICE : Second Generation Antipsychotic Duplicative Therapy**

March 15, 2018

Dear Medicaid Provider,

The New York State (NYS) Medicaid Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Program retrospectively reviews the prescribing and dispensing of outpatient prescription medications to ensure that prescriptions are appropriate, medically necessary, and are not likely to result in adverse medical outcomes. Under the purview of the DUR Program, the NYS Medicaid DUR Board recently reviewed *Second Generation Antipsychotic Duplicative Therapy* within the NYS Medicaid program. NYS Medicaid pharmacy claims data indicate that you may have written a prescription(s) for a second-generation antipsychotic (SGA) medication to a patient with a history of receiving 3 or more different oral SGAs concurrently for greater than 90 days, and therefore you are receiving this letter.

In 2017, the DUR Board evaluated the utilization of oral SGAs across each pharmacy management entity inclusive of the fee-for-service (FFS) program and managed care organizations (MCOs), focusing on duplication of SGA therapy or SGA polypharmacy, defined as concurrent use of greater than 1 SGA. In February 2018 an updated literature search was presented, which identified additional guidelines and meta-analyses addressing SGA polypharmacy. Based on the available literature, the updated report concluded that antipsychotic polypharmacy should not be routinely used due to lack of supporting evidence. Considering this information, the DUR Board recommended the following:

- A targeted letter to providers prescribing an SGA to patients with a history of receiving 3 or more different oral SGAs concurrently for greater than 90 days.
- **A duration limit that requires prescriber involvement for utilization of 3 or more different oral SGAs concurrently for greater than 180 days.**

In providing 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 SGA drugs for your patients.

Thank you for your professional assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

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