



RETRODUR INTERVENTION NOTICE : Codeine / Tramadol - Evaluation of Safety

June 18, 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 *Codeine / Tramadol - Evaluation of Safety* within the NYS Medicaid program. NYS Medicaid pharmacy claims data indicate that you may have written a prescription(s) for codeine or Tramadol for a patient, and therefore you are receiving this letter.

The FDA has required the manufacturers of codeine-and tramadol-containing products to update the contraindications sections of their product labels to include the following:

- To avoid the use of these products to treat pain and cough in children <12 years of age
- To avoid the use of these products in adolescents 12 to <18 years of age for the treatment of pain following tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy

(Note: On January 11, 2018, the FDA issued a Drug Safety Communication regarding the use cough and cold preparations containing codeine or hydrocodone in patients <18 years. These preparations are no longer indicated for patients <18 years and are not recommended.)

Considering this information, the DUR Board recommended the following:

- Prescriber involvement required for all tramadol and codeine-containing products for members younger than 12 years of age.
- Educational letter to providers through retrospective drug utilization review (RetroDUR) focusing on members younger than 18 years of age receiving a codeine or tramadol containing product.

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 codeine-and tramadol-containing products for your patients.

Thank you for your professional assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,
Medicaid Drug Utilization Review Program
DUR@health.ny.gov