

Allison Knight, Assistant Manager
DMAP Policy and Planning Section

Authorized Signature

Number: DMAP IM 07-004

Issue Date: 01/09/07

Topic: Medical Benefits

Subject: Client & Provider announcements about prescription sedatives

Applies to (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children, Adults and Families | <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors and People with Disabilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD Program Managers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): DHS staff and others identified on the SPD, CAF, AMH and DMAP transmittal lists |

Message: Beginning March 16, 2007, DMAP will require PA on sleep aids to ensure that prescriptions are for conditions on the prioritized list. Only clients who have been using these sedative prescriptions will receive a letter. All prescribers and pharmacies will also receive announcements. Samples of the client and provider announcements follow.

If you have any questions about this information, contact:

Contact(s):	Brian Olson, DMAP Pharmacy Policy Analyst	
Phone:	(503) 945-6492	Fax:
E-mail:	brian.olson@state.or.us	



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Human Services Division of Medical Assistance Programs

500 Summer Street NE, E35

Salem, OR 97301-1077

Voice (503) 945-5772

FAX (503) 373-7689

TTY (503) 378-6791

January 9, 2007

To: Oregon Health Plan clients

From: Allison Knight, Assistant Manager
DMAP Policy and Planning Section



Subject: Prescriptions for sleep aids (sedatives)

Starting March 16, 2007, the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) will change coverage for sedative prescription drugs (sleep aids). We have notified your health care providers of these changes.

OHP usually does not cover treatment for insomnia (not able to sleep). OHP may pay for prescription sleep aids if the insomnia is connected to certain other health conditions that are covered (for example, depression or bi-polar disease).

Our records show that sometime between October 1, 2006, and December 7, 2006, you had a prescription for medication to help you sleep. Your doctor will have to contact the Division of Medical Assistance Programs (DMAP) to see if your conditions qualify before OHP will pay for your sleeping aids from now on.

If DMAP does not approve your next prescription, you will have to pay for the medicine yourself.

Affected medicines include Ambien, Ambien CR, Lunesta, Rozerem and Sonata or similar generic drugs (*e.g.*, zopiclone, eszopiclone, ramelteon, zaleplon, temzepam, triazolam, flurazepam, quazepam).

Also, OHP will no longer cover use of two different sedatives at the same time for the same month.

Questions? Contact the OHP Client Advisory Services Unit (CASU) at 1-800-273-0557.

DMAP CU Jan 07-004

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January 9, 2007

To: Prescribing Providers and Pharmacies

From: Allison Knight, Assistant Manager
DMAP Policy and Planning Section

Subject: PA on prescriptions for sedatives



On March 16, 2007, DMAP will start requiring prior authorization (PA) for sedatives. The Oregon Health Plan does not cover treatment for uncomplicated insomnia. DMAP may pay for sleep aids with prior authorization (PA) if the insomnia is associated with certain other health conditions (*e.g.*, depression, bi-polar disease) that are covered on Oregon Health Services Commission's Prioritized List.

- DMAP will start requiring PA for certain sedatives in order to ensure that prescriptions are for conditions currently covered on the Prioritized List. The sedatives affected include non-benzodiazepines (*e.g.*, zolpidem eszopiclone, ramelteon, zaleplon).
- DMAP will continue to require PA for more than 15 doses per 30 days for benzodiazepines (*e.g.*, temazepam, triazolam, flurazepam, quazempam, estazolam).
- DMAP will no longer pay for concurrent use of two different sedatives in the same month.
- Prescribing providers who currently treat patients, or who begin to treat patients, with newer sedative hypnotics must request a PA for continued treatment. A 60-day transition period for current patients allows more time for PA requests to process and to avoid therapy disruption.

Requesting PAs

Prescribing providers may delegate any licensed medical personnel in their offices to call the Help Desk at the First Health Managed Access Program (MAP) to request PA. Their phone number is 1-800-344-9180 and the fax number is 1-800-250-6950. The prescription PA form is available at the end of the Pharmaceutical Services Supplemental Information online at www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/healthplan/guides/pharmacy/rxsupp0107.pdf.

Questions? Contact Provider Services: 1-800-336-6016 or via e-mail dmap.providerservices@state.or.us.

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