

Prospective Drug Utilization Review Edits

Early Refill (Over-utilization): Over-utilization is use of a drug in quantities or for durations which puts the patient at risk of an undesirable effect due to a course of drug therapy. The over-utilization screening system warns the pharmacists when patients attempt to obtain early refills. This is currently a hard edit and requires an override be granted by contractor.

Therapeutic Duplication: Therapeutic duplication is the prescribing of two or more drugs from the same therapeutic class such that the combined daily dose increases the risk of toxicity or incurs additional program costs without additional therapeutic benefit. The Therapeutic Duplication screening warns pharmacists when a claim is submitted for a systematically absorbed drug that shares the same therapeutic class or a non-systematic drug with the identical route of administration and same therapeutic class as another drug class as another currently in the patient's active medication history.

Drug/Drug Interaction: Drug to drug interactions create the potential for an adverse medical event when patients receive simultaneous prescriptions with conflicting pharmacology. The drug/drug interaction screening warns pharmacists when a patient receives drugs which result in a different pharmacological response from that which is expected when the drugs are given separately. This screen accounts for serum half-life when editing for active medications in the patient's medical history. The pharmacist is notified when the severity level 1 interactions occur, those that are the most significant, usually requiring action to reduce risk of serious injury.

High Dose (Incorrect Dose): An incorrect dose is one which lies outside the adult daily dosage range necessary to achieve therapeutic benefit. The incorrect dose screening system alerts pharmacists when doses fall outside the normal adult range for common indications for the drug. Patient-specific information is not required since dosage ranges are predicted on a 70 kg adult male with normal hepatic and renal function. Pediatric and geriatric doses are not included in the incorrect dose alert. Claims for patients under 18 years and under are subject to the alert. Currently, only the high dose component is being screened through prospective DUR; the system does not screen for low dose.

Preferred Drug: Preferred drugs are drugs that have been selected by an expert panel of enlightened physicians and pharmacists with respected medical and pharmacological backgrounds. The purpose is to continuously and objectively evaluate and select the most appropriate drug products based on effectiveness, safety, and cost. The preferred drug screening system warns the pharmacist when a claim is submitted for a non-preferred drug. When a product is non-preferred, the provider must obtain a prior authorization from the prior authorization contractor before payment will be considered.