Health care reform: Pharmacy benefit contraceptive coverage

Dear Client:

As you may know, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), or “health care reform law,” requires non-grandfathered health plans in their first plan year beginning on or after August 1, 2012 to cover certain women’s preventive care items and services, including FDA-approved contraceptive methods for women, at 100 percent, without cost share.

In response, our fully insured groups with medical-only plans, which do not provide pharmacy benefits either through an Oxford plan from UnitedHealthcare or another pharmacy benefit manager (PBM), will be provided with pharmacy contraceptive coverage at no member cost share through a special PPACA preventive care medications rider.

This coverage will begin on your plan’s next renewal date – on or after August 1, 2012. A list of these preventive care medications is included with this letter along with a client frequently asked questions (FAQ) list. These contraceptives will be available at no cost to your members on both standard and high-deductible or consumer-driven health (CDH) plans when filled at a network pharmacy.

You do not need to take any action in order to receive this new benefit. If your plan has grandfathered status or meets the federal requirements for religious exemption (including safe harbor) as defined by the health reform law, and you do not want contraceptive coverage, please contact your Oxford representative for further direction.

We will continue to manage the cost of this new coverage using medical management techniques, which may include ancillary charges, precertification, supply limits, step therapy and select exclusions to control costs and promote efficient delivery of care.

Members will be mailed new health plan ID cards and letters with a no-cost contraceptive drug list prior to your plan’s next renewal date on or after August 1, 2012. In addition, information will be available to members on oxfordhealth.com, or by calling the Pharmacy Customer Service member telephone on their new health plan ID card.

If the health care reform law requirements for women’s contraceptive coverage changes, we will keep you informed of how our plans will comply with these changes through our standard client publications.

Thank you for entrusting your pharmacy benefit management program to us. Your business is important, and we look forward to a continued and successful partnership. Please don’t hesitate to call your Oxford representative if you have any questions about this information.

Sincerely,

Susan V. Maddux, Pharm.D.
Pharmacy Director

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