Federal Retail Pharmacy Program Updates

Sitio web en Español para participantes del programa de vacunas COVID

AmerisourceBergen selected for HHS COVID-19 Therapeutic Dispensing Program

On Wednesday December 22nd, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted emergency use authorization (EUA) for a new oral antiviral treatment from Pfizer. Paxlovid is authorized for the treatment of mild-to-moderate coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in adults and pediatric patients (12 years of age and older weighing at least 40 kg) with positive results of direct severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) viral testing, and who are at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death. More information can be found in the EUA Fact Sheet for healthcare providers.

On Thursday December 23nd, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) also granted emergency use authorization (EUA) for an additional oral antiviral treatment from Merck. Molnupiravir is authorized for treatment of mild-to-moderate coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in adults with positive results of direct SARS-CoV-2 viral testing, and who are at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death, and for whom alternative COVID-19 treatment options authorized by the FDA are not accessible or clinically appropriate. Molnupiravir is not authorized for use in patients younger than 18 years of age because molnupiravir may affect bone and cartilage growth. More information can be found in the EUA Fact Sheet for healthcare providers.

Currently the EUA Fact Sheets for both products indicate they may only be prescribed for an individual patient by physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, and physician assistants that are licensed or authorized under state law to prescribe drugs in the therapeutic class to which PAXLOVID belongs (i.e., anti-infectives).

NCPDP recently released updates to the NCPDP Emergency Preparedness Guidance Document v1.12 to clarify guidance on billing of a self-administered free COVID-19 oral antiviral during an emergency and we are expecting more information from payers regarding reimbursement rates and any unique claim submission processes. Initial product volume is expected to be low for both products and the U.S. Government will allocate product to the jurisdictions, who will transfer portions of the inventory to Federal Retail Pharmacy Partners which they have selected for partnership.

At this time, AmerisourceBergen is only partnered with the state of Georgia as a network administrator for the HHS COVID-19 Therapeutic Dispensing Program. Current vaccine program participants in Georgia received additional details and new therapeutic

agreements by email last week. As we are selected by other states/locations, we will update you and will continue to provide additional information on the Therapeutic Dispensing program as we learn more.

Tell us if you would be interested in participating
If your pharmacy would be interested in participating in the antiviral program, please fill out this brief form. If you indicate you would like to participate, you will receive two agreements to sign; one with HHS and one with AmerisourceBergen. We were only selected by Georgia at this time, but other states may want to partner with us in the coming weeks and the survey results will be shared to demonstrate reach of the network and potential for future partnerships with additional jurisdictions. At this time, all antiviral product is allocated through the jurisdictions to their selected partners/pharmacies.

Questions? Send questions to: **COVIDVaccines@amerisourcebergen.com**.