

 Missouri Department of
SOCIAL SERVICES

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MO HEALTHNET DIVISION

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January 5, 2012

Joseph Muscato, M.D.
Missouri Cancer Associates
Medical Oncology & Hematology
1705 E. Broadway, Ste 100
Columbia, MO 65201



Dear Dr. Muscato:

This is in response to your August 4, 2011 letter regarding Aloxi denials for chemotherapy patients in the MO HealthNet pharmacy program. The 5HT3 Antiemetic Agents therapeutic class of medications was reviewed during a quarterly Drug Prior Authorization Committee meeting to re-evaluate statuses in the Preferred Drug List (PDL). Our PDL review process utilizes information from various clinical sources, including the UMKC Drug Information Center, the Oregon Evidence-Based Drug Research Consortium, our clinical contractors, and our own clinical research team. Annually, the clinical information is then paired with a fiscal evaluation, then developed into a therapeutic class recommendation. The PDL process incorporates clinical criteria into the prescription drug program.

During the July implementation of the annual changes to the edit, the *injectable* antiemetics were inadvertently included in the clinical edit criteria causing claims to deny for patients receiving these drugs for chemotherapy. The intention of this edit was not to restrict access to antiemetics used in currently accepted national guidelines for treatment for our oncology patients, but rather a preferred drug list for the *oral* outpatient treatment of non-cancer related nausea and vomiting. Providers that received denied claims for the injectable antiemetics can re-submit their claims for payment, if they haven't done so already.

Our clinical team creates edits based on evidence-based nationally recognized, clinical practice guidelines. The MO HealthNet pharmacy program continues to use these and other program enhancements to improve the state's provision of evidence-based, clinically appropriate, and fiscally responsible patient care for Missouri's most vulnerable citizens.

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Joseph Muscato, M.D.
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Thank you for your continued dedication in caring for oncology patients in the state of Missouri. If you have additional questions, please contact the Clinical Services Unit at 573/751-6963.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian McCaslin', written in a cursive style.

Ian McCaslin, M.D., M.P.H.
Director

IM:tr