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MEMORANDUM

TO: Arkansas Medicaid Enrolled Prescribing Providers and Pharmacy Providers

FROM: Cynthia Neuhofel, Pharm.D. Division of Medical Services Pharmacy Program *Cynthia Neuhofel*

DATE: June 28, 2021

SUBJECT: Update for declaration of public health emergency for COVID-19

The Governor announced that the public health emergency expired on May 30, 2021. Due to the COVID-19 emergency, Arkansas Medicaid relaxed some pharmacy edits to accommodate the special needs during this time. Now that the public health emergency is ending, previous edits will be reinstated beginning August 1, 2021.

- The early refill (ER) edit and the "Refill Too Soon" Accumulation Logic will be reinstated. Pharmacy providers will no longer be allowed to bypass the early refill ProDUR alert for non-controlled prescriptions.
- The aerochamber pharmacy restriction allowing 1 per year will be reinstated.
- All short-acting beta agonists have been available without a PA. The following preferred drug list will be reinstated.

Preferred Short Acting Beta Agonists agents

- Albuterol HFA (ProAir HFA- BRAND ONLY)
- Albuterol HFA (Proventil HFA-BRAND ONLY)
- Albuterol sulfate 0.63mg/3ml solution
- Albuterol sulfate 1.25mg/3ml solution
- Albuterol sulfate 2.5mg/0.5ml solution
- Albuterol sulfate 2.5mg/3ml solution
- Albuterol sulfate 5mg/ml solution

Nonpreferred Short Acting Beta Agonists agents

- Albuterol HFA (generics, Ventolin)
- Albuterol sulfate inhalation powder (ProAir RespiClick, ProAir Digihaler)
- Levalbuterol inhalation solution (Xopenex inhalation solution)
- Levalbuterol HFA inhaler (Xopenex HFA)