

## **BLAST COMMUNICATION**

March 27, 2020

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### **COVID-19 Update #5 DPH & PPE and DCH & Pharmacy**

*We know that members are being inundated with emails and communication. We chose to over-communicate in the first weeks of the crisis but will decrease the number of eblasts going forward. We will focus on sharing information that is more specific to Georgia practices that may not be otherwise available. We will post additional information on the website and of course members should feel free to reach out to the chapter with their questions.*

Dear Georgia Chapter Colleague:

This communication includes two pieces of important information: 1) the Georgia Department of Public Health process on how to order PPE and 2) the Georgia Department of Community Healthy regarding prescriptions for those enrolled in Medicaid.

**DPH & PPE:** There is a new process through which Clinical Providers, such as pediatric practices, can obtain emergency resources for PPE from the national stockpile. Please note inventory is critically low and not all items will be available at any given time. If you receive a portion of your order, it will be considered filled.

Listed below is the priority of how PPE will be allocated and followed by instructions on how orders can be placed. You may not receive the entire amount of your order; however, if you receive a portion of your supply order, it will be considered filled. Resubmit any unfulfilled requests through the link.

Hospitals and Health Systems  
EMS  
Nursing homes  
Assisted Living Facilities  
All others; including physician practices and prisons

**Step One:** Visit ReadyOp at <https://ga.readyop.com/fs/4cMi/8d3e> to order via the online form

Submit your form by 12 PM on the following days:

- Saturdays for Tuesday deliveries
- Mondays for Thursday deliveries
- Wednesday for Saturday deliveries

**Step Two:** Requests will be reviewed, allocated, and assigned.

**Step Three:** Request will be reviewed, allocated, and assigned:

- Filled Resources will be sent to the 5 zones on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturdays.

- Districts will be notified of what is moving to the zones for their area to share with their facilities
- Items will then be dispersed to the districts for partners

**Step Four:** Please call 404-852-0250 for any resource request follow-up questions.

**DCH Medicaid Pharmacy** This information included below was posted yesterday by DCH on GAMMIS to the attention of Georgia Medicaid Prescribers & Pharmacy Providers. Effective immediately, DCH has enacted new policy for early refills for 30-day maintenance prescriptions and in certain cases, a one-time 90-day supply for non-Schedule II controlled substances during this COVID-19 outbreak. **The following is the text from the message posted on GAMMIS by DCH:**

To meet the needs of GA Medicaid Fee-For-Service (FFS) members, and to limit the burden on a stressed provider network amid the COVID-19 outbreak, the GA Department of Community Health (DCH) is implementing the changes below to better serve our members during this time.

Early refill limits are temporarily being waived on 30-day prescriptions for maintenance medications at any in-network pharmacy so they may be filled ahead of schedule.

A one-time 90-day supply of a prescription medication will be permitted if the Georgia Medicaid FFS member has no remaining refills, and the pharmacist is unable to contact the issuing practitioner to obtain refill authorization. This 90-day emergency authorization shall not apply to prescriptions for Schedule II controlled substances. The pharmacist will be responsible for determining the use of this one-time 90-day emergency authorization.

Pharmacy providers may contact the OptumRx Pharmacy Helpdesk at 1-866-525-5826 for assistance if the 90-day supply claim is rejecting point-of-sale for service limitations related to the days' supply.

Prior Authorizations (PA) that are set to expire on or before May 1, 2020 will be extended for an additional 90 days for fee for service members. Drugs with significant abuse potential (e.g., opioids), or those that are generally dosed for finite durations or intermittently (e.g., hepatitis agents) as identified by DCH, in addition to medications that are newly prescribed, will follow the standard process for renewals. DCH will continue to re-evaluate the need for further extensions.

To submit a pharmacy Prior Authorization request for Medicaid Fee-For-Service members, please contact OptumRx at 1-866-525-5827.

As an additional measure, DCH has taken immediate action on all Asthma rescue inhalers and Immune Globulin products and will allow these medications to process as a preferred status (without prior authorization) until April 30, 2020. DCH will reassess the need for further extensions on or before April 30, 2020.

The Department is working diligently to prevent disruption on critical medications for our members during this time when vulnerable populations are being directed to take precautionary measures.

Sincerely,

*Terri McFadden, MD, FAAP*

Chapter President &  
Georgia AAP COVID-19 Task Force