



**PROVIDER ALERT**

**June 17, 2010**

**PharmaConnect**

**Pharmacy Alert Letters – Additional Information:**

As noted in the June 2, 2010 Provider Alert, PharmaConnect technology is now available to the Maryland Mental Health System (PMHS). The Pharmacy Alert letters generated by this technology are a ValueOptions® Maryland quality initiative intended to assist providers in providing quality care to consumers receiving mental health services through the (PMHS).

A variety of care gaps, usually related to consumers non-compliant with the recommended therapy, contribute to poor outcomes and unnecessary cost. *PharmaConnect* automatically screens medical & pharmacy claims for the total population to identify multiple types of patient-specific care gaps (examples below). The majority of the alerts relate to patients’ non-compliance, or potential conflicts related to prescriptions for controlled substances from multiple providers. The prescribing provider is notified in writing, to facilitate coordination of care for the consumer with other prescribers.

Providers do not need to respond to these letters. The only intent of the alert letters is to provide additional information to the prescribing provider. However, feedback is welcome.

***ALERT EXAMPLES***

<b>ALERT</b>	<b>EXAMPLE</b>
<b>Poor Compliance</b>	Monitors ALL chronic behavioral health drugs for underuse or inconsistent refill patterns. along with Early Discontinuation, this alert type has the greatest impact on reducing preventable hospitalizations
<b>Early Discontinuation</b>	Monitors ALL chronic behavioral health drugs for discontinuation of therapy for all drugs within that category
<b>Polypharmacy</b>	Concurrent therapy with three or more antipsychotics
<b>Drug-Drug Interactions</b>	Identifies moderate-to-severe alerts for ALL maintenance drugs, when prescribed and dispensed by multiple physicians and pharmacies
<b>Overuse / Substance Abuse</b>	Primarily used to identify overuse of controlled substances when received from multiple prescribers and pharmacies
<b>Age-Inappropriate Therapy</b>	Antipsychotics prescribed for children under 6 years of age



Letters are mailed to the prescriber's address as documented in the National Provider Identifier (NPI) Registry.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Providers are advised to update their information, including address changes, in the NPI Registry. Updates communicated to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Provider Enrollment and/or the licensing boards are not forwarded to the NPI Registry

From the CMS Website:

*A covered health care provider must notify the NPPES of an address change within 30 days of the effective date of the change. We encourage health care providers who have been assigned NPIs, but who are not covered entities, to do the same. A health care provider may submit the change to NPPES via the web*

*(<https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/StaticForward.do?forward=static.npistart>) or by paper. If paper is preferred, the health care provider may download the **NPI Application/Update Form (CMS-10114)** from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' forms page ([www.cms.hhs.gov/cmsforms](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/cmsforms)) or may call the **NPI Enumerator (1-800-465-3203)** and request a form.*