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**To:** MaineCare Providers  
**From:** Jennifer Cook, Pharmacy Unit Manager  
**Date:** 09/25/2009  
**Re:** Initial Prescription Limits (Phase III)

Valuable research has suggested that lack of adherence to medication and other variables contribute to unused and discarded medication. Closer evaluation of side effects and efficacy during the first two weeks of treatment may lead to better patient outcome and better safety.

In response to this research, MaineCare instituted new 15-day limits on initial prescriptions for various medications that have been identified with high side effect profiles, high discontinuation rates, or frequent dose adjustments.

Effective 8/6/09, MaineCare began limiting initial prescriptions to 15 day supplies on the following medications: Suboxone, Subutex, Chantix and Nicotine replacement products. On 9/11/09, the following medications were included in the initial prescription limits: Bladder antispasmodics: Bethanechol, Detrol, Flavoxate, Oxybutynin, Sanctura, Urispas, Vesicare, Detrol LA, Ditropan XL, Enablex, Oxytrol, Toviaz, and Narcotics: Opana, Oxycodone, Avinza, Duragesic, Fentanyl, Kadian, Methadone, Morphine sulfate, Opana ER, Oramorph, and Oxycontin. **Beginning 10/02/09, the following medications will be included as the third phase of the Initial Prescription Limits: Anti-depressants; Cymbalta, Effexor, Effexor XR, Lexapro, Luvox CR, Paxil CR, paroxetine ER, Pristiq, Anti-Psychotics; Abilify, Geodon, Invega, Risperdal, risperidone, Seroquel, Seroquel XR, Zyprexa, Stimulants; Adderall, amphetamine combo's, Concerta, dextroamphetamine, Dextrostat, Focalin, Focalin XR, Metadate, Methylin, methylphenidate, Provigil, Ritalin, Ritalin LA, Vyvanse, Strattera, Cafcit, and Miscellaneous; Ultram ER, Equetro**

Initial prescriptions for preferred products over the initial 15-day supply will require prior authorization. Subsequent refills of these products will be allowed at the usual MaineCare allowable days supply. Any non-preferred medications within this list that obtain prior authorization will also require the 15-day initial prescription limitations. These new limitations will help ensure cost effectiveness without “wasting” or “discarding” of used medications and assist MaineCare in controlling the cost of healthcare.

For further questions please contact Goold Health Systems at 1-888-420-9711