



**AVERAGE WHOLESAL PRICING
 FOR WORKERS COMP**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced that, effective 6/1/09 it will independently price prescription drug costs in Workers' Compensation Medicare Set-Aside Arrangement (WCMSA) proposals.

When an injury covered by workers' compensation warrants prescription drugs for ongoing treatment, CMS' pricing will be calculated using average wholesale price (AWP). CMS will not use or recognize any other pricing, discounting, or calculation methods.

COMMENTS:

With the argument over AWP pricing from different sources, make sure that you are using the AWP as published by the manufacturer. Do not use the First Data Bank or Medi-Span AWP as they are calculated numbers.

**RECESSION TAKES STARTLING TOLL
 ON PATIENTS**

The results of a national survey by the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) confirm the negative impact the recession is having on Americans' access to healthcare. The national poll of AAFP members shows that –

- 90% reported their “patients have expressed concerns recently over their ability to pay for their healthcare needs.”
- 58% said they had “seen an increase in appointment cancellations.”
- 60% reported they had “seen more health problems caused by their patients forgoing needed preventive care.”

The survey also found that:

**DRUGS DROPPED FROM PART D
 FORMULARY 12/31/08 – PART 2**

Drug Name	THESE NDCs ONLY
PRONESTYL 375MG TAB (Procainamide HCl)	00003043450
PRONESTYL 500MG TAB (Procainamide HCl)	00003043850
PYRIDIUM 200MG TAB (Phenazopyridine)	00430018124
QUADRAMET INJECTION 35MG/ML (Samarium Sm 153 lexidronam)	50419020903
QUICK MIX W/LYTES 4.25% SOL (QUICK MIX W/LYTES)	00338085104
REVEX 100MCG/ML AMPULE (Nalmefene HCl)	10019031521
REVEX 1MG/ML AMP (Nalmefene HCl)	10019031122
ROFERON-A 3MMU/0.5ML KIT (Interferon Alfa-2A)	00004201509
ROFERON-A 6MMU/0.5ML KIT (Interferon Alfa-2A)	00004201609
ROFERON-A 9MMU/0.5ML KIT (Interferon Alfa-2A)	00004201709
SULAR 10MG TABLET SR 24HR (Nisoldipine)	59630044010
SULAR 20MG TABLET SR 24HR (Nisoldipine)	59630044110
SULAR 30MG TABLET SR 24HR (Nisoldipine)	59630044210
SULAR 40MG TABLET SR 24HR (Nisoldipine)	59630044310
TILADE AER 1.75/ACT 16.2 GM CSTR (Nedocromil Sodium)	60793012001
UNI-OTIC LIQD 0.1%/1% (Chloroxylenol/Pramoxine Ear Drops)	00677188281

COMMENTS: Review your Medicare formulary and update as necessary. Review Part B benefits to determine appropriate coverage of the above medications.

**CHECK YOUR PHARMACY INVOICE
 LIKE YOU CHECK YOUR
 SUPPLY INVOICES**

Invoices for payments to PBMs and Health Plans for prescriptions filled by their network pharmacies (both retail and mail), should be checked – the same way one would check a grocery or restaurant receipt.

The assumption that electronic claim adjudication is without errors can be dangerous for both medical and pharmacy claims. Pro Pharma's experience indicates that at least 5-7% of all paid drug claims are incorrect.

- 66% of the family physicians were taking specific actions, such as discounting their fees, increasing charity care, providing free screenings and moving patients to generic prescriptions
- 54% reported seeing fewer total patients
- 73% said they had seen an increase in uninsured patients visiting their offices

“The survey found that patients are canceling or deferring important preventive screenings such as pap smears, mammograms, and colonoscopies,” They also are failing to return for recommended follow-up visits or refill medications.

Source: American Academy of Family Physicians, May 19, 2009

COMMENT:

Preventive screening and decreasing cost of medications for chronic conditions are actions that can be taken even in tough economic times. Consider modifying copays for screening exams, and informing patients of lower cost generics and brands in order to lower out-of-pocket costs.

Prime areas for errors are eligibility, pricing, claim validity, payments for benefit exclusions, etc.

Pro Pharma’s Invoice Screening™ tool analyzes pharmacy invoices within 72 hours to validate invoices prior to payment.



[\(click here to our website and go to Products/Services – Invoice Screens for more information](#)

CONTACT: Carol Stern at: **(888) 701-5438** or carol.stern@propharmaconsultants.com to order.

Pro Pharma Pharmaceutical Consultants, Inc. has assisted Payers and Providers for over 23 years to Maintain Quality while Controlling Costs.