



INLAND EMPIRE HEALTH PLAN

# PHARMACY TIMES

BY IEHP PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

November 7, 2008

## Changes in Test Strips (DME) Coverage

Dear IEHP Pharmacy Providers,

In May 2008, IEHP modified the coverage of diabetic test strips based on the basis that frequent Self-Monitoring of Blood Glucose (SMBG) does not provide clinical values to non-insulin-dependent Type 2 diabetes<sup>1-11</sup>. IEHP Pharmacy & Therapeutics Subcommittee reiterates that frequent SMBG is essential for patients who are insulin-dependent. For non-insulin-dependent diabetes, annual (or biannual) A1C should be performed to monitor the blood glucose level.

	<b>New Durable Medical Equipment Benefit Limit for Diabetes Test Strips</b>
Test Strip (AccuChek)	<b>Insulin-dependent diabetes:</b> Quantity Limit: 150 per month or 400 per 90 days supply (PER required)  <b>Non-insulin-dependent diabetes:</b> Quantity Limit: 50 per 90 days supply (No PER required)

Please note that NO quantity override will be granted for non-insulin-dependent diabetes unless there are justifications from the physicians. All PERs submitted for quantity override will be returned to the Pharmacy Providers with a reason code "Submission Error". Members should be instructed not to test more than 2 times a week for their blood glucose level if they are not using insulin.

### Reference:

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