



INLAND EMPIRE HEALTH PLAN

# PHARMACY TIMES

BY IEHP PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

June 15, 2009

## Pharmacy Exception Request (PER) Processing Time

In June 2009, IEHP has reached another milestone by having more than 400,000 Members first time in our history. Due to the Membership growth, our Pharmacy Exception Request (PER) volume has also increased significantly in the past few months. IEHP Pharmaceutical Services Department is working diligently to handle all submitted PERs in a timely manner. Please review the following tips to help us process the PER faster:

1. Submit a PER only once (if you have a fax confirmation). Please do not submit duplicate PER unless you do not hear from us within 5 days. Our goal is to return all submitted PERs (with valid medical information) to the Provider within 1 working day
2. Advise the prescribing physicians to use Formulary choice instead of a non-formulary medication prescribed
3. Review the Test Strips Coverage Criteria below

## Diabetes Test Strips Coverage

The following quantity limit for diabetes test strips was adopted in May 2008. Please review the quantity limit listed below:

Test Strip  (AccuChek)	<b>New Durable Medical Equipment Benefit Limit for Diabetes Test Strips</b>
	<u>Insulin-dependent diabetes:</u>
	Quantity Limit: 150 per month or 400 per 90 days supply
	<u>Non-insulin-dependent diabetes:</u>
	Quantity Limit: 50 per 90 days supply

No quantity override will be granted for Non-Insulin-dependent diabetes unless there are valid justifications from the physicians. PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT PER if member is not currently using insulin. All PERs submitted for quantity limitation override without valid justification will be returned and will not be processed.

Note for Pharmacists: The new quantity limitation is set up to allow patients who are not using insulin to test their blood glucose level 2x to 3x a week. Self monitoring blood glucose (SMBG) practices offers no benefit for their blood glucose control but is a good tool to assess if the oral regimens are working as intended. The SMBG should only be used frequently when insulin is used or when adjusting the dosage of the diabetic medications. IEHP encourages Members to have their A1c check at least once a year.