



A Public Entity

Inland Empire Health Plan

# PHARMACY TIMES

BY IEHP PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

June 21, 2011

The purpose of this notice is to notify you of the coverage of drugs included in the end-stage renal disease (ESRD) for IEHP Medicare DualChoice Members. According to the latest CMS guidance, drugs included in the end-stage renal disease (ESRD) are excluded from Part D coverage and are included in the End-Stage Renal Disease Prospective Payment system (For Medicare FFS).

Effective immediately, drugs that are used in the treatment of ESRD provided by an ESRD dialysis facility are excluded under Part D coverage. The ESRD-related drugs are now covered under Part B. All ESRD-related drugs processed under the IEHP Medicare DualChoice will be subject to Part B vs D Prior Authorization Process.

Drugs that will always be considered renal dialysis drugs when furnished to an ESRD patient (Part B vs D PA restriction apply):

Access management	Drugs used to ensure access by removing clots from grafts, reverse anticoagulation if too much medication is given, and provide anesthetic for access placement.
Anemia management	Drugs used to stimulate red blood cell production and/or treat or prevent anemia. This category includes erythropoiesis stimulating agents (ESAs) as well as iron.
Anti-infectives	Vancomycin and daptomycin used to treat access site infections.
Bone and mineral metabolism	Drugs used to prevent/treat bone disease secondary to dialysis.
Cellular management	Drugs used for deficiencies of naturally occurring substances needed for cellular management.

Drugs that fall within these categories are presumed to be dialysis-related and included under the ESRD unless the ESRD facility indicates on the prescription that the drug is not ESRD-related and then coverage may be provided under Part D:

Antiemetic	Drugs used to prevent or treat nausea and vomiting secondary to dialysis, excluding antiemetics used in conjunction with chemotherapy as these are covered under a separate benefit category.
Anti-infectives	Drugs used to treat infections. These may include antibacterial and antifungal drugs.
Antipruritic	Drugs in this category have multiple clinical indications, but are included for their action to treat itching secondary to dialysis.
Anxiolytic	Drugs in this category have multiple actions, but are included for the treatment of restless leg syndrome secondary to dialysis.
Excess fluid management	Drugs/fluids used to treat fluid excess/overload.
Fluid and electrolyte management including volume expanders	Intravenous drugs/fluids used to treat fluid and electrolyte needs.
Pain management	Drugs used to treat graft site pain and to treat pain medication overdose.

A Pharmacy Exception Request should be submitted for drugs that are denied because of “Part B vs D” restriction. Please submit all information including diagnosis and place of service to expedite the process.

Please feel free to contact IEHP Pharmaceutical Services Department at 909-890-2049, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

IEHP Pharmaceutical Services Team