



CHIPPEWA FALLS AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

BENEFIT UPDATE – effective July 1, 2016

Dear Health Plan Participants,

Chippewa Falls Area School District appreciates the contributions of their members and is continually striving to offer a competitive and comprehensive health care plan. We would like to provide the following information to you as an update to your prescription drug program.

■ GENERIC DRUG SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM

Prescription drug prices are rising. In an effort to help control the cost increase in prescription drugs, many employers are adopting a mandatory generic prescription drug substitution program. Effective *July 1, 2016*, Chippewa Falls Area School District is adding a mandatory generic prescription drug substitution program. Whenever there is a generic medication available, you are encouraged to utilize the generic. If you select the brand name medication, *even though your prescribing physician has allowed a generic drug to be dispensed*, you will be responsible for the cost difference between the brand name medication and the generic medication reimbursement rate. This amount, commonly referred to as an “ancillary charge”, is then added to your copayment or coinsurance for your prescription medication. In many cases, this amount could exceed the cost of the brand name medication copayment. If your prescribing physician does not allow for generic substitution and requires that you take the brand name only, even though there is a generic available, then you will pay the applicable copayment only.

Every time you get your prescription refilled or when you have a new prescription, ask your physician or pharmacist if there is a generic or lower cost alternative available for your medication. For many brand name medications, these generic alternatives can save you and your health plan a substantial amount of money. In some cases, when there is not a generic available for your medication, your physician may be able to prescribe a different medication that is available generically that treats the same symptoms, disease or medical condition.

■ NPS QUANTITY LIMITATIONS

NPS maintains a list of dispensing or quantity limitations per a specific amount of time. Quantity limit programming has become an acceptable prescription drug benefit plan practice that may be appropriate to place on some medications. The intentions are to safeguard members’ health and save plan benefit dollars. This program ensures members do not receive a prescription for a quantity that exceeds recommended plan limits. Limits are set because some medications have the potential to be abused, misused, shared or have a manufacturer’s limit on the maximum dose. Please refer to the NPS “Dispensing Limitation List” included with this Benefit Update to see if you are taking one of these medications.

■ SPECIALTY INJECTABLE/ORAL DRUGS

Your pharmacy benefit program includes coverage for certain products that are referred to as Specialty Drugs. Medications covered under this provision include, but are not limited to, immunosuppressants, antiretrovirals, cancer therapies, recombinant biological pharmaceuticals, interferons, drugs to treat other rare disorders, and most injectable medications. Most Specialty Drugs are injectables, however some may be oral or transdermal (patches). Specialty Drugs may be medications that you administer to yourself or have a healthcare provider administer for you. Please refer to the NPS “Specialty Medication List” included with this Benefit Update for examples of specialty prescription drugs and to see if you are taking one of these medications.



All Specialty Injectable/Oral Drugs that will be self-administered at home or as a scheduled visit in your physician's office will now require a Prior Authorization (PA). In order to obtain a PA, your healthcare provider should contact the NPS Help Desk at 1-800-546-5677 to request a prior authorization for your Specialty Injectable/Oral Drug. Once we receive the required information back from your healthcare provider, the NPS Clinical Department will then verify your benefits and, through the managed prior authorization process, will determine if the drug is a covered benefit through the Chippewa Falls Area School District Pharmacy Program.

■ QUESTIONS

National Pharmaceutical Services (NPS) appreciates the opportunity to serve you and your family. If you have questions regarding your prescription drug benefit, including NPS network pharmacy provider locations, drug benefit coverage, applicable co-payments, etc., please do not hesitate to contact the NPS Customer Service Center at 1-800-546-5677 or visit the NPS website at www.pti-nps.com.