



# MARYLAND MEDICAID PHARMACY PROGRAM

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## ADVISORY

*In an effort to give timely notice to the pharmacy community concerning important pharmacy topics, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's (DHMH) Maryland Pharmacy Program (MPP) has developed the Maryland Pharmacy Program Advisory. To expedite information timely to the pharmacy and prescriber communities, an email network has been established which incorporates the email lists of the Maryland Pharmacists Association, EPIC, CARE, Long Term Care Consultants, headquarters of all chain drugstores and prescriber associations and organizations. It is our hope that the information is disseminated to all interested parties. If you have not received this email through any of the previously noted parties or via DHMH, please contact the MPP representative at 410-767-1455.*

### RESPONSIBLE USE OF INTERVENTION CODES

As the community pharmacist is well aware, the Maryland Medicaid Pharmacy Program (MMPP) performs a prospective drug utilization review (ProDUR) on each submitted claim. ProDUR alerts are designed to prevent and reduce adverse drug effects. They do so by identifying conflicts in drug therapy including therapeutic duplication, drug-drug interactions, and high doses. Claims can be overridden when the prescriber has been consulted (MO), the pharmacist has reviewed the profile (RO), or the pharmacist counsels the patient (PO). The MMPP relies on the pharmacist to use his or her best clinical judgment in determining whether to use one of these overrides and which one is appropriate.

A recent review of claims for benzodiazepines raised the possibility that the above-mentioned intervention codes are not being utilized correctly. The MMPP has recently evaluated therapeutic duplication of benzodiazepines, a class of drugs that can be overutilized, have known abuse potential and can impair physical and mental function. In evaluating override codes for therapeutic duplication (TD) of benzodiazepines, it was found that the majority of override codes indicated that the prescriber was consulted (MO).

**Be advised that the MMPP counts on the pharmacist to use the intervention codes responsibly and to document and monitor their use by the pharmacy technical staff. The MMPP requests that pharmacists**

refrain from using the MO code to override any therapeutic duplication alert unless the prescriber was contacted and clearly indicated that the alerted duplicate therapy was part of the intended course of ongoing treatment for the patient. If this is the case, then the MO code can be used to override future DUR alerts when processing refills. However, the prescriber should be contacted again after a reasonable amount of time, such as 6 months, to determine if the therapy should continue.

**DUR Codes  
Reason for Service Codes  
(DUR Conflict Codes)**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
DA	Drug Allergy Alert
DD	Drug-Drug Interaction
ER	Early Refill
HD	High Dose Alert
ID	Ingredient Duplication
LD	Low Dose Alert
MX	Excessive Duration Alert
PA	Drug Age Precaution
PG	Drug Pregnancy Alert
SX	Drug Gender Alert
TD	Therapeutic Duplication

**Professional Service Codes  
(Intervention Codes)**

MO	Prescriber Consulted
RO	Pharmacist Consulted
PO	Patient Consulted