



PROVIDER *bulletin*

June 26, 2018

Dear Provider:

Kern Family Health Care strives to provide quality and safe care to its members in accordance with current evidence based guidelines. As a Medicaid managed care plan, this is paired with availing cost effective therapies within those guidelines. Recently new drugs have come to market that are not the conventional Brand/generic relationship that had been established. These Follow On drugs are becoming increasingly more common. They may be viewed in a similar light as multi-branded drugs. Examples of multi-branded drugs: Ventolin HFA, ProAir HFA, Proventil HFA, Prinivil, Zestril. These new drugs often have cost advantages compared to the Brand/originator product. More of these are heading to market. Much of this activity is seen surrounding insulins.

KFHC, like other managed care Medicaid plans, requires the generic version to be prescribed/dispensed (unless medical justification provided to the contrary.) Due to technical aspects of brand/generic interchangeability laws, the Follow On products are not allowed to be automatically substituted at the pharmacy level. Clinically, however, they deliver the same outcomes.

Insulins in the past years have experienced significant price increases. A few Follow On products of popular brands are available. By utilizing the Follow On product, we will be able to provide the same quality of care at a reduced cost. Beginning July 1, 2018, **Basaglar** (insulin glargine) and **Admelog** (insulin lispro) will be the allowed brands of those insulin formulations for KFHC members. Remember FDA stability rules indicate that an opened insulin container (vial, pen, and cartridge) should be discarded after 28 days. Therefore, to reduce accidentally administering expired medication and waste, please consider the concentrated formulations only for those members who would be using > 71 units (U-200) or >107 units (U-300) per day.

Sincerely,

Bruce Wearda, R.Ph.
Director of Pharmacy