STATE OF HAWAII MEDICAID FEE FOR SERVICE
Preferred Drug List (PDL)

Questions and Answers for Providers about the Hawaii Medicaid Fee for Service
Preferred Drug List (PDL)

What is a Preferred Drug List (PDL)?
A Preferred Drug List (PDL) provides a selection of therapeutically effective drugs for which the Medicaid Fee for Service Program will allow payment without a prior authorization. These agents are considered ‘preferred’ within a specific therapeutic class. Agents that are considered ‘non-preferred’ are available via prior authorization. Not all classes of drugs are chosen for inclusion within the Hawaii Medicaid Fee for Service Preferred Drug List. Those classes not chosen will be treated in the same manner as they are currently handled by the Hawaii Medicaid Fee for Service Program – in other words there will be no changes in these non-PDL drug classes.

How are the drugs chosen for the PDL?
An analysis of the State’s Medicaid Fee for Service pharmacy claims was performed. The analysis identified those therapeutic classes that represent large annual expenditures to the state of Hawaii. Selected classes have been reviewed by the State to determine inclusion or exclusion on the PDL. The Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee makes clinical recommendations to the State on which drug(s) to prefer and non-prefer in each PDL class. The P&T Committee may choose to recommend one preferred drug in a class or as many preferred drugs as they see clinically appropriate.

Who is on the P&T Committee?
The P&T Committee consists of practicing physicians and pharmacists in the state of Hawaii, and represents specialties such as cardiology, pediatrics, geriatrics and internal medicine. The Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee members serve on behalf of the State and its constituents without compensation.

What about classes that are not on the PDL?
For classes that do not appear on the PDL, nothing has changed.

When does the PA program start?
Informational messages (“soft edits”) will be implemented on December 1, 2004. Full Prior Authorization (PA) requirements will be implemented for the first set of drug classes on January 5, 2005. The PDL will be implemented in gradual stages such that ‘hard edits’ or full prior authorization requirements will not happen in all classes at once.

When can I begin to submit Prior Authorizations (PAs) for my Medicaid Fee for Service Recipients?
Prescribers are encouraged to proactively request PAs in December. A copy of the Preferred Drug List (PDL) has been sent to providers and is available online at: http://Hawaii.fhsc.com. You can begin to transition Medicaid Fee for Service Recipients to preferred drugs immediately. If you can identify those Medicaid Fee for Service Recipients who need to continue with non-preferred drugs you should submit requests for prior authorization (PA) in advance. If approved, the PA can be in place to be effective when the hard edits begin.

Will patients currently taking drugs that are not on the Preferred Drug List be required to have prior authorization? (Will they be grandfathered?)
There is no automatic grandfathering of non-preferred drugs.
If, after considering the products on the Preferred Drug List, I still feel my patient needs a drug requiring prior authorization, what do I do?
All Prior Authorizations (PA) should be submitted to the ACS PBM Prior Authorization Desk using the 1144B form as is currently done.

Does this list apply to those recipients in the QUEST plans (AlohaCare, HMSA, and Kaiser)?
No, this list only applies to those patients enrolled in the Medicaid Fee for Service Program.

Does this list apply to intravenous products as well?
The preferred drug list typically only applies to oral medications and not intravenous (IV) medications unless specifically noted.

Does this list apply to all inpatient hospital medications?
No, acute care facilities or inpatient hospital care will not be affected by the PDL.

What if I want to offer comment on the drugs that are included on the Preferred Drug List?
Please contact First Health at: 1-800-290-7301 or via e-mail at: Hawaii@fhsc.com and a pharmacist will answer any questions you have within 24 hours.