REMINDER: Mental Health Medication Emergency Supply

When mental health medications are needed without delay and prior authorization (PA) is not available, a 5-day emergency supply should be dispensed to the beneficiary until PA can be secured. The pharmacy is reimbursed for the 5-day supply, even if the PA is denied. The pharmacy follows the transmittal screen prompt to process the 5-day supply of mental health medication for the patient, when alerted at the time of adjudication.

The rule applies to behavioral health nonpreferred drugs listed on the PDL-Preferred Drug List on the Preferred Drug List (PDL) page of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) website and any mental health drug that is affected by clinical PA requirements (Prior Authorization - Clinical Criteria) and would need prescriber prior approval. The 5-day emergency procedure should not be used for routine and continuous overrides.

In order to receive payment consideration for emergency dispensing of a PA medication, the pharmacy should:

- Verify beneficiary eligibility and plan participation
- Initiate the PA request to the appropriate PA department by phone or fax


Note: The effective date of the policy was July 17, 2017. The implementation of State policy by the KanCare managed care organizations (MCOs) may vary from the date noted in the Kansas Medical Assistance Program (KMAP) bulletins. The KanCare Open Claims Resolution Log on the KMAP Bulletins page documents the MCO system status for policy implementation and any associated reprocessing completion dates, once the policy is implemented.