

DUR: Prospective DUR

Prospective Drug Use Review (DUR) is performed electronically at the time a drug is dispensed to a patient. This review is designed to identify potential problems such as drug-drug interactions, therapeutic duplication, inappropriate dosage, or duration of therapy. When a pharmacist is alerted to a potential problem, he or she is expected to use professional judgment to determine an appropriate intervention. In accordance with California Board of Pharmacy requirements and federal rules, Medi-Cal prospective DUR includes the following general requirements:

- The pharmacist must maintain patient medication records.
- The pharmacist must screen for potential therapeutic problems before the prescription is dispensed to the patient.
- The pharmacist must counsel patients on all new or changed prescriptions and on refills when the pharmacist deems it warranted or the patient requests it.

California Board of Pharmacy regulations require these activities for all patients, including Medi-Cal. For Medi-Cal beneficiaries, as described in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 42 Part 456, Subpart K – Drug Use Review (DUR) Program and Electronic Claims Management System for Outpatient Drug Claims, Section 456.705, 10-1-12 Edition, prospective DUR requires that all prescriptions must at least be screened by pharmacists for therapeutic duplication, drug-disease contraindications, adverse drug-drug interactions, incorrect drug dosage, incorrect duration of drug treatment, drug-allergy interactions, and clinical misuse/additive toxicity. In addition, the Medi-Cal Point of Service (POS) network screens prescriptions for targeted drugs for potential drug therapy problems due to ingredient duplication, overutilization, underutilization, drug-age conflicts, drug-gender conflicts, and drug-pregnancy conflicts.

Prospective DUR screening must use predetermined standards, which are based upon evidence-based practice guidelines, disease-specific health improvement programs developed by the State of California, peerreviewed medical literature, and the following compendia:

- American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information
- United States Pharmacopoeia Drug Information
- American Medical Association Drug Evaluations

In accordance with the requirements of the California State Board of Pharmacy, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 16, Section 1707.3, conducting prospective DUR screening is the sole responsibility of the pharmacist. Pharmacies may use commercially available DUR database packages to assist with prospective DUR. Such database packages must be able to screen for therapeutic problems based on explicit standards. It is not expected that commercial databases will contain patient-specific diagnosis or allergy information. When, in the pharmacist's professional judgment, obtaining such information is essential, he or she should consult the patient or the patient's health care provider.