

9/7/06

TO: All Employees

FROM: Al Hendra, Assistant Administrator/Human Resources

RE: **Pharmacy coverage changes**

In an effort to improve service to you, and control our pharmacy costs for the employee and the Hospital, **effective 10/1/06** the MGHS Outpatient Pharmacy will implement a closed Formulary (a specific list of drugs/dosages that will be available through the MGHS pharmacy with a valid prescription).

What does this mean?

- For a prescription to be filled by the MGHS O/P Pharmacy, the drug prescribed must be on the Formulary.
- Lifestyle and fertility drugs will NOT be on the Formulary.
- Some drugs may be available if a Prior Authorization is completed by your physician and forwarded for consideration. ***Certain categories of drugs including Growth Hormones, Multiple Sclerosis, Rheumatoid Arthritis and Hepatitis C may require special handling. Contact the O/P Pharmacy immediately if you are in need of drugs in these categories.***

What should you do?

- Check the Restricted Drug Classes to see if the prescriptions you currently get filled will be on the Formulary. If not, contact your physician immediately to discuss a possible alternative from the formulary list. If your physician does not find an alternative, he or she may fill out a Prior Authorization form and submit for consideration. Local physicians are very familiar with this process as they have been working with the UPHP Formulary since January 2004.

What if you have Health insurance through MGH?

- Both the original PPO plan and the UP Blue Plan will be converting to the same Formulary **effective 10/1/06**. You will receive information on your new coverage shortly.
 - Under the original PPO plan: Master Medical coverage for prescriptions will no longer be available. Coverage outside the MGH O/P Pharmacy will be available through 4D Pharmacy Management Systems, Inc. Pharmacy cards will be issued from 4D.
 - Under the UP Blue plan: The BCBSM drug coverage will no longer be available, and will be changed to 4D Pharmacy Management Systems, Inc. New BCBSM cards will be issued as well as pharmacy cards from 4D.

For both plans, coverage outside of the MGH O/P Pharmacy is available for situations when the MGH O/P Pharmacy is closed or you are out of the area. Employees will be able to get one 31 day (maximum) fill per prescription in these situations at a cost of a \$10 deductible and 40% co-pay per prescription. All refills must be done through the MGHS O/P Pharmacy.