



<Date>

<Prescriber FName> <Prescriber LName>, MD
<Prescriber Address>
<Prescriber City>, <Prescriber State> <Prescriber Zip>

Alert of Changes in Seroquel® 25mg and 50mg Strengths for Georgia Medicaid Fee-For-Service Members

Dear Dr. <Prescriber LName>:

Starting December 1, 2009 for Georgia Medicaid Fee-for-Service (FFS) patients, low-dose Seroquel® (quetiapine) 25 mg and 50 mg, taken up to 50 mg/day alone, will no longer be covered. If a patient is using the 25 mg or 50 mg tablets in conjunction with other strengths of Seroquel® to make a total dose greater than 50 mg/day or with an antidepressant and/or other antipsychotic, there will be no disruption in the patient's prescription fills. This change was supported by the Department of Community Health's (DCH) Drug Utilization Review Board (DURB), which is comprised of physicians, pharmacists and a consumer advocate.

Seroquel® is approved for the treatment of bipolar disorder and schizophrenia at doses ranging between 300 mg to 400 mg daily. According to the product labeling, these dosage ranges are typically achieved by the fourth day of therapy.¹ Although available in lower dosage forms, prolonged therapy with Seroquel® at doses of 50 mg/day or less is inconsistent with the product labeling. A recent study suggested low-dose Seroquel® is often used off-label for its sedating and anxiolytic properties.² Current data supporting the use of atypical antipsychotics for sleep or sedation are limited and the cost-to-benefit ratio supports the use of more established therapies approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). A list of preferred alternatives for insomnia can be found by accessing the current Georgia Medicaid FFS Preferred Drug List at <http://dch.georgia.gov>.

This letter is not intended to replace the medical care you provide to your patients. If you deem it clinically appropriate to maintain your Georgia Medicaid FFS patient on Seroquel® 50 mg/day or less, you may contact SXC at **1-866-525-5827**. We encourage you to do so prior to December 1, 2009.

Thank you for assisting Georgia Medicaid in providing continued access to prescription coverage through selecting cost-effective alternatives when appropriate. We appreciate you being a Georgia Medicaid FFS provider.

Sincerely,

Georgia Department of Community Health
Medicaid Fee-For-Service Program

1. Seroquel® (quetiapine fumarate) prescribing information. Wilmington, DE: AstraZeneca. Available at <http://www1.astrazeneca-us.com/pi/Seroquel.pdf>. Last revised July 2009. Accessed November 12, 2009.
2. Philip NS, Mello K, Carpenter LL, et al. Patterns of Quetiapine Use in Psychiatric Inpatients: An Examination of Off-Label Use. *Annals of Clinical Psychiatry* 2008;20(1):15-20.

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