## CMS Proposes Medicare Advantage Changes

BY MARY ELLEN SCHNEIDER

New York Bureau

fficials at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services are proposing changes to the Medicare Part D prescription drug plans and Medicare Advantage plans in an effort to strengthen oversight of the programs.

The proposal includes mandatory selfreporting aimed at curbing potential fraud and misconduct by plans. The CMS proposal also includes changes to streamline the process of intermediate sanctions and contract determinations. In addition, the proposal clarifies the process for imposing civil money penalties.

"While the majority of Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans that offer important benefits to beneficiaries are conducting themselves professionally, it is important for CMS to be able to take swift action to safeguard beneficiaries from unlawful or questionable

business practices," Leslie Norwalk, acting CMS administrator, said in a statement.

But the Bush administration is falling short in policing the marketing practices of Medicare Advantage plans, according to Robert M. Hayes, president of the Medicare Rights Center. Mr. Hayes has called on Congress to establish clear safeguards against "abusive and deceptive" marketing practices and to give state governments the power to enforce those standards. He also called on Congress to es-

tablish minimum benefit standards and standardize benefit packages to allow for better consumer comparison of plans.

Officials at the American Medical Association are also reporting problems with Medicare Advantage plans. An online survey of more than 2,200 AMA member physicians conducted in March found that patients had difficulty understanding how the Medicare Advantage plans work or have experienced coverage denials for services that were typically covered under traditional Medicare plans.

For example, about 84% of physicians with patients in Medicare Advantage managed care plans reported that their patients had difficulty understanding how the plan works. About 80% of physicians with patients in Medicare Advantage private feefor-service plans also reported confusion among their patients.

More than half of physicians also reported excessive hold times and excessive documentation requested by payers with both types of Medicare Advantage plans.

CMS is accepting comments on the proposal through July 24.

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Use in Children Defer Six Years of Age: Effects of ADDPSALL XIP\* in 3-5 pear olds have not been studied. Long-term eff of amphetamines in children have not been well established. Amphetamines are not recommended for use in children 3- pains of age.

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OCENIAL NA\* for 12 months or more.

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ble 1 Adverse Events Reported by More Than 1% of Pediatric Pediatric coerving ACCERALL XP1\* with Higher Incidence Than on Placeto in a Id Patient Clinical Study

Body System	Preferred Torre	WINDSAMIT NA.	Placebo (n=218)
General	Abdeminal Pain (stomochache)	14%	10%
	Accidental Injury	3%	2%
	Asthenia (fatigue)	2%	156
	Fever	8%	2%
	Infection	4%	25
	Viral Infection	2%	8%
Digestive	Loss of Appetite	22%	2%
System	Diarrhea	2%	2%
	Dyspepsia	2%	7%
	Nauroea.	5%	3%
	Vorsiting	7%	4%
Nemous System	Districts	2%	125
	Emotional Lability	2%	2%
	Impomnia	12%	2%
	Nervousness	6%	2%
Metabolic/Nutritional	Weight Loss	4%	P%

Metabolic Nutritional	Weight Loss	4%	Ph.				
Table 2 Adverse Events Reported by 5% or more of Adolescents Weighting 2.75 kg/HSS libs Receiving ADSEPALL SR* with Higher Incidence Them Placebo in a 287 Patient Clinical Forstell Weekly-Door Titosico Study*							
Budy System	Preferred Term	ADDERALL XR" (n=250)	Placebe (n=54)				
General	Abdomissi Psin (storschache)	11%	2%				
Digestive System	Loss of Appetite 1	36%	2%				
Hervous System	Insomnia 1 Nervausness	12% 6%	4% 6%				
Metabalic/Nutritional Appears the same due to	Weight Loss 1	9%	9%				

Note estand adverse ments, the The Children was a state of the criterion for inclusion in Table 2 but we collect by 2'm is this of addressent pollects expending MCDEALI, XXP with a high obtained that policies exceeding placetic in this shorty accidence that policies exercising placetic in this shorty accidence in inset, softler inguel, criterion, bytopepola, emotional biblidy, traverse, commoderare, and remotion collected decrease up to 40 mg

Eudy System	Preferred York	ADDERALL XR* (8-791)	Placeto (n=64)
General	Acthesia Headache	20%	13%
Digestive System	Loss of Appetits Districts Dry Mouth Nesses	93% 9% 93% 8%	25 25 25 25
Hervous Spalem	Agitation Anxiety Distincts Insorania	8% 8% 7% 27%	2% 2% 8% 12%
Cardievascular System	Tachycardio	6%	2%
Metabolic Votritional	Weight Loss	11%	8%
Uragenital System	Utinary Tract Infection	9%	2%

folie: The following events just not meet the interiors for inclination in table 3 but it is expected by 2.1 but fill adult plantes sectioning (IEEE/RAIL, XXX<sup>2</sup> that Intigher denor than-patients sectioning placetor or the drule; interior, philosophiship years unschiptions, took decodes, constitutional intelligit stilled decreased, seminorishine, sign discirrate, palgitation, historing, dysprea, swedting, dysmenorishin, and impetitive included doors up to 60 kg. equipm
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BRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE
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Individual patient response to amphetamen varies widely. Texte symptoms may occi idiosmentifically at low doses.

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Obspecie in a tight, light-resistant container a defined in the USP Store at 25° C (77° f) Excursions permitted to 15-36° C (55-86° f) [see USP Controlled Room Temperature]. Manufactured for: Skine US Inc., Wayne, P.

1-800-829-3088, or visit www.adderallxxxxx ADDEFALL\* and ADDEFALL XX\* are register in the US Patent and Trademark Dth Copyright 00006 Shire US Inc. 900734 381 0107 010

## Federal Team Arrests 38 for Medicare Fraud

Amultiagency "strike force" targeting fraudulent Medicare billing related to infusion therapy and durable medical equipment recently made 38 arrests.

The arrests, all in south Florida, mark the first phase of operations of the team of federal, state, and local investigators. The team began its operations in March using both real-time analysis of billing data from Medicare and claims data extracted from the Health Care Information System.

In May, the departments of Justice and Health and Human Services jointly announced that the multiagency team had obtained indictments of individuals and health care companies alleged to have collectively billed the Medicare program for more than \$142 million. The charges include conspiracy to defraud the Medicare program, criminal false claims, and violations of the antikickback statutes.

The antifraud efforts drew praise from Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.).

"Federal health dollars are just too scarce to lose to fraud and abuse in Medicare," he said in a statement. "I'm glad to see the Justice Department taking this new, more aggressive stance against scams that endanger Medicare patients and that rob all taxpayers who contribute to America's health care programs."

Sen. Baucus had recently expressed concern about reports of durable medical equipment fraud in South Florida. In one recent case, the Health and Human Services inspector general found that many medical device suppliers were not at their advertised addresses and were still billing Medicare for millions of dollars in reimbursement.

-Mary Ellen Schneider

SPEEF SEMMARY. Cancell the full Prescribing Information for complete product information. ADDERALL XR\* CAPSULES

AMPERAMINES HAVE A HIGH POTENTIAL FOR ABUSE, ADMINISTRATION OF ARRESTMENCS FOR PROLONGED PERSONS OF TIME MAY LEAD TO DRUG DEPRICACE. PARTICULAR ATTENTION SHOULD BE FIND TO THE POSSIBILITY OF SUBJECTS DEPLANDING ARRESTMENT AND FOR MON-THEOLOGY LIST OF DISTRIBUTION TO OTHERS AND THE DIFLOS SHOULD BE PRESCRIBED OR DISPENSED SPARMISLY.

MISUSE OF AMPRETAMINE MAY CAUSE SUDDEN DEATH AND SERIOUS CARDIOVASCULAR ADVERSE EVENT

INDICATIONS

ADDEPALL XR" is indicated for the treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

The efficacy of ADDERALL SPT in the treatment of ADPD was established on the basis of two controlled thinks in children ages to to 12, one controlled trial in adolescents aged 15 to 17, and one controlled their init in adults who need IDSA-IT. This strong with ochapolation from the known efficacy of ADDERALL\*, the immediate-release fermulation of this subdateou. CONTRAMORATIONS.

Advanced advanced-roots, symplamatic cardiovalscalar classes, moderate to severe hyperfensions, hyperfensions, hypersensible or disconnection to the symplamenimetic amenes, glascons, Agaited statists. Patients with a hadrony of drug about, During or within 14 days following the administration of monounine codase inhibitors (hyperfensive orders may result).

WARRENDS

Sudden Death and Pre-existing Structural Cardiac Abnormalities or Other Serious Heart Pr Children and Aristocounts

Children and Adolescents
Solden death has been reported in association with CNS stimuland treatment at social doces in children and adolescents will structural cardiac alternational terminal and the services have problems. Although some services have problems altern carry an increase risk at sudden death, stimulant products generally should not be used in children or adolescents with revent serious structure cardiac alternatives, cardiomyopathy, serious heart of system absentiation, or offer serious cardiac problems that may place them at increased vulnerability to the symposthemismic effects of a stimulatin drug place Children.

Access Southern deaths, stroke, and enyocardial inflancion have been reported in adults baking stimulant drugs at exact deser for ACHO. Although the role of stimulants in these adult cases is also anknewn, adults have a present likelithood than rollation of having select structural candidate othermatifies, cardiomyogaths, serious heart drylen adonovables, covering when places deserted are reviews cardiomyogaths, and cardiomyogaths, and cardiomyogaths are reviews cardiomyogaths, and also write the stimulant drugs (see CONTRANDICATIONS).

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increases in Morel pressure or heart ratio, e.g., those with pre-cissing hypertension, heart failure, recent myscands infanction, or event-cubar enthythmic (see Contribution-

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Sections:
There is series clinical evidence that stimulants may lower the convubine threshold in patients with prior history of scitzers, in patients with prior EES abnormalities in absence of scitzers, and very namely, in patients without a feature of scitzers and no prior EES evidence of scitzers. In the presence of scitzers, the drug should be decontinued.

Visual Unbufformore
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means accommodation.

General: The least arround of amphetamine has the should be prescribed or dispensed at one time in order to entiminate the pessibility of event-busine. ACCEPALL XPT should be used with caution in patients who use offer sympathormment drugs. Thes: Amphetamines have been reported to exceeniate mode and phante bus and Tournetist syndrame. Therefore, chincal enaluation for tics and Tournetist's syndrame in children and their families should provide use of streamine medications. Information for Patients: Amphetamines may impair the ability of the patient to engage in potentially hazardook activities such

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A number of studies in roderits indicate that prenatal or early posteriate exposure to amphetament (d- or cU-), at dissessment to those used clinically, can result in long-term resmotherical and behavioral attentions. Reported behavioral effects include learning and memory deficits, aftered becometer actively, and changes in sexual function.