CMS Proposes Medicare Advantage Changes

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Officials 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 self-reporting 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 establish 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 fee-for-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. ■

BRIEF SUMMARY: Consult the full Prescribing Information for complete product information.

ADDERALL XR® CAPSULES CII Rx Only

AMPHETAMINES HAVE A HIGH POTENTIAL FOR ABUSE. ADMINISTRATION OF AMPHETAMINES FOR PROLONGED PERIODS OF TIME MAY LEAD TO DRUG DEPENDENCE. PARTICULAR ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO THE POSSIBILITY OF SUBJECTS OBTAINING AMPHETAMINES FOR NON-THERAPEUTIC USE OR DISTRIBUTION TO OTHERS AND THE DRUGS SHOULD BE PRESCRIBED OR DISPENSED SPARINGLY.

MISUSE OF AMPHETAMINE MAY CAUSE SUDDEN DEATH AND SERIOUS CARDIOVASCULAR ADVERSE EVENTS.

INDICATIONS

ADDERALL XR® is indicated for the treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

The efficacy of ADDERALL XR® in the treatment of ADHD was established on the basis of two controlled trials in children aged 6 to 12, one controlled trial in adolescents aged 13 to 17, and one controlled trial in adults who met DSM-IV® criteria for ADHD, along with extrapolation from the known efficacy of ADDERALL®, the immediate-release formulation of this substance.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Advanced arteriosclerosis, symptomatic cardiovascular disease, moderate to severe hypertension, hyperthyroidism, known hypersensitivity or idiosyncrasy to the sympathomimetic amines, glaucoma. Agitated states. Patients with a history of drug abuse. During or within 14 days following the administration of monoamine oxidase inhibitors (hypertensive crises may result).

WARNINGS

Serious Cardiovascular Events

Sudden Death and Pre-existing Structural Cardiac Abnormalities or Other Serious Heart Problems

Children and Adolescents

Sudden death has been reported in association with CNS stimulant treatment at usual doses in children and adolescents with structural cardiac abnormalities or other serious heart problems. Although some serious heart problems alone carry an increased risk of sudden death, stimulant products generally should not be used in children or adolescents with known serious structural cardiac abnormalities, cardiomyopathy, serious heart rhythm abnormalities, or other serious cardiac problems that may place them at increased vulnerability to the sympathomimetic effects of a stimulant drug (see CONTRAINDICATIONS).

Adults

Sudden deaths, stroke, and myocardial infarction have been reported in adults taking stimulant drugs at usual doses for ADHD. Although the role of stimulants in these adult cases is also unknown, adults have a greater likelihood than children of having serious structural cardiac abnormalities, cardiomyopathy, serious heart rhythm abnormalities, coronary artery disease, or other serious cardiac problems. Adults with such abnormalities should also generally not be treated with stimulant drugs (see CONTRAINDICATIONS).

Hypertension and other Cardiovascular Conditions

Stimulant medications cause a modest increase in average blood pressure (about 2-4 mmHg) and average heart rate (about 3-6 bpm) (see ADVERSE EVENTS), and individuals may have larger increases. While the mean changes alone would not be expected to have short-term consequences, all patients should be monitored for larger changes in heart rate and blood pressure. Caution is indicated in treating patients whose underlying medical conditions might be compromised by increases in blood pressure or heart rate, e.g., those with pre-existing hypertension, heart failure, recent myocardial infarction, or ventricular arrhythmia (see CONTRAINDICATIONS).

Assessing Cardiovascular Status in Patients being Treated with Stimulant Medications

Children, adolescents, or adults who are being considered for treatment with stimulant medications should have a careful history (including assessment for a family history of sudden death or ventricular arrhythmia) and physical exam to assess for the presence of cardiac disease, and should receive further cardiac evaluation if findings suggest such disease, and should receive further cardiac evaluation if findings suggest such disease (e.g. electrocardiogram and echocardiogram). Patients who develop symptoms such as exertional chest pain, unexplained syncope, or other symptoms suggestive of cardiac disease during stimulant treatment should undergo a prompt cardiac evaluation.

Psychiatric Adverse Events

Pre-Existing Psychosis

Administration of stimulants may exacerbate symptoms of behavior disturbance and thought disorder in patients with pre-existing psychotic disorder.

Bipolar Illness

Particular care should be taken in using stimulants to treat ADHD patients with comorbid bipolar disorder because of concern for possible induction of mixed/manic episode in such patients. Prior to initiating treatment with a stimulant, patients with comorbid depressive symptoms should be adequately screened to determine if they are at risk for bipolar disorder; such screening should include a detailed psychiatric history, including a family history of suicide, bipolar disorder, and depression.

Emergence of New Psychotic or Manic Symptoms

Treatment emergent psychotic or manic symptoms, e.g., hallucinations, delusional thinking, or mania in children and adolescents without prior history of psychotic illness or mania can be caused by stimulants at usual doses. If such symptoms occur, consideration should be given to a possible causal role of the stimulant, and discontinuation of treatment may be appropriate. In a pooled analysis of multiple short-term, placebo-controlled studies, such symptoms occurred in about 0.1% (4 patients with events out of 3482 exposed to methylphenidate or amphetamine for several weeks at usual doses) of stimulant-treated patients compared to 0 in placebo-treated patients.

Aggression

Aggressive behavior or hostility is often observed in children and adolescents with ADHD, and has been reported in clinical trials and the postmarketing experience of some medications indicated for the treatment of ADHD. Although there is no systematic evidence that stimulants cause aggressive behavior or hostility, patients beginning treatment for ADHD should be monitored for the appearance of or worsening of aggressive behavior or hostility.

Long-Term Suppression of Growth

Careful follow-up of weight and height in children ages 7 to 10 years who were randomized to either methylphenidate or non-medication treatment groups over 14 months, as well as in naturalistic subgroups of newly methylphenidate-treated and non-medication treated children over 36 months (to the ages of 10 to 13 years), suggests that consistently medicated children (i.e., treatment for 7 days per week throughout the year) have a temporary slowing in growth rate (on average, a total of about 2 cm less growth in height and 2.7 kg less growth in weight over 3 years), without evidence of growth rebound during this period of development. In a controlled trial of ADDERALL XR® in adolescents, mean weight change from baseline within the initial 4 weeks of therapy was –1.1 lbs. and –2.8 lbs., respectively, for patients receiving 10 mg and 20 mg ADDERALL XR®. Higher doses were associated with greater weight loss within the initial 4 weeks of treatment. Published data are inadequate to determine whether chronic use of amphetamines may cause a similar suppression of growth; however, it is anticipated that they will likely have this effect as well. Therefore, growth should be monitored during treatment with stimulants, and patients who are not growing or gaining weight as expected may need to have their treatment interrupted.

Seizures

There is some clinical evidence that stimulants may lower the convulsive threshold in patients with prior history of seizure, in patients with prior EEG abnormalities in absence of seizures, and very rarely, in patients without a history of seizures and no prior EEG evidence of seizures. In the presence of seizures, the drug should be discontinued.

Visual Disturbance

Difficulties with accommodation and blurring of vision have been reported with stimulant treatment.

PRECAUTIONS

General: The least amount of amphetamine feasible should be prescribed or dispensed at one time in order to minimize the possibility of overdosage. ADDERALL XR® should be used with caution in patients who use other sympathomimetic drugs.

Tics: Amphetamines have been reported to exacerbate motor and phonic tics and Tourette's syndrome. Therefore, clinical evaluation for tics and Tourette's syndrome in children and their families should precede use of stimulant medications.

Information for Patients: Amphetamines may impair the ability of the patient to engage in potentially hazardous activities such as operating machinery or vehicles; the patient should therefore be cautioned accordingly.

Drug Interactions: *Acidifying agents*—Gastrointestinal acidifying agents (guanethidine, reserpine, glutamic acid HCl, ascorbic acid, etc.) lower absorption of amphetamines. *Urinary acidifying agents*—These agents (ammonium chloride, sodium acid phosphate, etc.) increase the concentration of the ionized species of the amphetamine molecule, thereby increasing urinary excretion. Both groups of agents lower blood levels and efficacy of amphetamines. *Adrenergic blockers*—Adrenergic blockers are inhibited by amphetamines. *Alkalinizing agents*—Gastrointestinal alkalinizing agents (sodium bicarbonate, etc.) increase absorption of amphetamines. Co-administration of ADDERALL XR® and gastrointestinal alkalinizing agents, such as antacids, should be avoided. Urinary alkalinizing agents (acetazolamide, some thiazides) increase the concentration of the non-ionized species of the amphetamine molecule, thereby decreasing urinary excretion. Both groups of agents increase blood levels and therefore potentiate the actions of amphetamines. *Antidepressants, tricyclic*—Amphetamines may enhance the activity of tricyclic antidepressants or sympathomimetic agents; d-amphetamine with desipramine or protriptyline and possibly other tricyclics cause striking and sustained increases in the concentration of d-amphetamine in the brain; cardiovascular effects can be potentiated. *MAO inhibitors*—MAOI antidepressants, as well as a metabolite of furazolidone, slow amphetamine metabolism. This slowing potentiates amphetamines, increasing their effect on the release of norepinephrine and other monoamines from adrenergic nerve endings; this can cause headaches and other signs of hypertensive crisis. A variety of toxic neurological effects and malignant hyperpyrexia can occur, sometimes with fatal results. *Antihistamines*—Amphetamines may counteract the sedative effect of antihistamines. *Antihypertensives*—Amphetamines may antagonize the hypotensive effects of antihypertensives. *Chlorpromazine*—Chlorpromazine blocks dopamine and norepinephrine receptors, thus inhibiting the central stimulant effects of amphetamines, and can be used to treat amphetamine poisoning. *Ethosuximide*—Amphetamines may delay intestinal absorption of ethosuximide. *Haloperidol*—Haloperidol blocks dopamine receptors, thus inhibiting the central stimulant effects of amphetamines. *Lithium carbonate*—The anorectic and stimulatory effects of amphetamines may be inhibited by lithium carbonate. *Meperidine*—Amphetamines potentiate the analgesic effect of meperidine. *Methenamine therapy*—Urinary excretion of amphetamines is increased, and efficacy is reduced, by acidifying agents used in methenamine therapy. *Norepinephrine*—Amphetamines enhance the adrenergic effect of norepinephrine. *Phenobarbital*—Amphetamines may delay intestinal absorption of phenobarbital; co-administration of phenobarbital may produce a synergistic anticonvulsant action. *Phenytoin*—Amphetamines may delay intestinal absorption of phenytoin; co-administration of phenytoin may produce a synergistic anticonvulsant action. *Propoxyphene*—In cases of propoxyphene overdosage, amphetamine CNS stimulation is potentiated and fatal convulsions can occur. *Veratrum alkaloids*—Amphetamines inhibit the hypotensive effect of veratrum alkaloids.

Drug/Laboratory Test Interactions: Amphetamines can cause a significant elevation in plasma corticosteroid levels. This increase is greatest in the evening. Amphetamines may interfere with urinary steroid determinations.

Carcinogenesis/Mutagenesis and Impairment of Fertility: No evidence of carcinogenicity was found in studies in which d,l-amphetamine (enantiomer ratio of 1:1) was administered to mice and rats in the diet for 2 years at doses of up to 30 mg/kg/day in male mice, 19 mg/kg/day in female mice, and 5 mg/kg/day in male and female rats. These doses are approximately 2.4, 1.5, and 0.8 times, respectively, the maximum recommended human dose of 30 mg/day (child) on a mg/m² body surface area basis.

Amphetamine, in the enantiomer ratio present in ADDERALL® (immediate-release)(d- to l- ratio of 3:1), was not clastogenic in the mouse bone marrow micronucleus test *in vivo* and was negative when tested in the *E. coli* component of the Ames test *in vitro*. d,l-Amphetamine (1:1 enantiomer ratio) has been reported to produce a positive response in the mouse bone marrow micronucleus test, an equivocal response in the Ames test, and negative responses in the *in vitro* sister chromatid exchange and chromosomal aberration assays.

Amphetamine, in the enantiomer ratio present in ADDERALL® (immediate-release) (d- to l- ratio of 3:1), did not adversely affect fertility or early embryonic development in the rat at doses of up to 20 mg/kg/day (approximately 5 times the maximum recommended human dose of 30 mg/day on a mg/m² body surface area basis).

Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category C. Amphetamine, in the enantiomer ratio present in ADDERALL® (d- to l- ratio of 3:1), had no apparent effects on embryofetal morphological development or survival when orally administered to pregnant rats and rabbits throughout the period of organogenesis at doses of up to 6 and 16 mg/kg/day, respectively. These doses are approximately 1.5 and 8 times, respectively, the maximum recommended human dose of 30 mg/day (child) on a mg/m² body surface area basis. Fetal malformations and death have been reported in mice following parenteral administration of d-amphetamine doses of 50 mg/kg/day (approximately 6 times that of a human dose of 30 mg/day [child] on a mg/m² basis) or greater to pregnant animals. Administration of these doses was also associated with severe maternal toxicity.

A number of studies in rodents indicate that prenatal or early postnatal exposure to amphetamine (d- or d,l-), at doses similar to those used clinically, can result in long-term neurochemical and behavioral alterations. Reported behavioral effects include learning and memory deficits, altered locomotor activity, and changes in sexual function.

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. There has been one report of severe congenital bony deformity, tracheo-esophageal fistula, and anal atresia (valer association) in a baby born to a woman who took dextroamphetamine sulfate with levulodan during the first trimester of pregnancy. Amphetamines should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

Nonteratogenic Effects: Infants born to mothers dependent on amphetamines have an increased risk of premature delivery and low birth weight. Also, these infants may experience symptoms of withdrawal as demonstrated by dysphoria, including agitation, and significant lassitude.

Usage in Nursing Mothers: Amphetamines are excreted in human milk. Mothers taking amphetamines should be advised to refrain from nursing.

Pediatric Use: ADDERALL XR® is indicated for use in children 6 years of age and older.

Use in Children Under Six Years of Age: Effects of ADDERALL XR® in 3-5 year olds have not been studied. Long-term effects of amphetamines in children have not been well established. Amphetamines are not recommended for use in children under 3 years of age.

Geriatric Use: ADDERALL XR® has not been studied in the geriatric population.

ADVERSE EVENTS

Hypertension: [See WARNINGS section] In a controlled 4-week outpatient clinical study of adolescents with ADHD, isolated systolic blood pressure elevations ≥15 mmHg were observed in 7/64 (11%) placebo-treated patients and 7/180 (7%) patients receiving ADDERALL XR® 10 or 20 mg. Isolated elevations in diastolic blood pressure ≥ 8 mmHg were observed in 16/64 (25%) placebo-treated patients and 22/100 (22%) ADDERALL XR®-treated patients. Similar results were observed at higher doses.

In a single-dose pharmacokinetic study in 23 adolescents, isolated increases in systolic blood pressure (above the upper 95% CI for age, gender and stature) were observed in 2/17 (12%) and 8/23 (35%), subjects administered 10 mg and 20 mg ADDERALL XR®, respectively. Higher single doses were associated with a greater increase in systolic blood pressure. All increases were transient, appeared maximal at 2 to 4 hours post dose and not associated with symptoms.

The premarketing development program for ADDERALL XR® included exposures in a total of 1315 participants in clinical trials (838 pediatric patients, 358 adolescent patients, 248 adult patients, 82 healthy adult subjects). Of these, 835 patients (ages 6 to 12) were evaluated in two controlled clinical studies, one open-label clinical study, and two single-dose clinical pharmacology studies (N=48). Safety data on all patients are included in the discussion that follows. Adverse reactions were assessed by collecting adverse events, results of physical examinations, vital signs, weights, laboratory analyses, and ECGs.

Adverse events during exposure were obtained primarily by general inquiry and recorded by clinical investigators using terminology of their own choosing. Consequently, it is not possible to provide a meaningful estimate of the proportion of individuals experiencing adverse events without first grouping similar types of events into a smaller number of standardized event categories. In the tables and listings that follow, COSTART terminology has been used to classify reported adverse events.

The stated frequencies of adverse events represent the proportion of individuals who experienced, at least once, a treatment-emergent adverse event of the type listed.

Adverse events associated with discontinuation of treatment: In two placebo-controlled studies of up to 5 weeks duration among children with ADHD, 2.4% (10/425) of ADDERALL XR® treated patients discontinued due to adverse events (including 3 patients with loss of appetite, one of whom also reported insomnia) compared to 2.7% (7/258) receiving placebo. The most frequent adverse events associated with discontinuation of ADDERALL XR® in controlled and uncontrolled, multiple-dose clinical trials of pediatric patients (N=585) are presented below. Over half of these patients were exposed to ADDERALL XR® for 12 months or more.

Adverse event	% of pediatric patients discontinuing (n=585)
Anorexia (loss of appetite)	2.9
Insomnia	1.5
Weight loss	1.2
Emotional lability	1.0
Depression	0.7

In a separate placebo-controlled 4-week study in adolescents with ADHD, eight patients (3.4%) discontinued treatment due to adverse events among ADDERALL XR®-treated patients (N=233). Three patients discontinued due to insomnia and one patient each for depression, motor tics, headaches, light-headedness, and anxiety.

In one placebo-controlled 4-week study among adults with ADHD, patients who discontinued treatment due to adverse events among ADDERALL XR®-treated patients (N=191) were 3.7% (n=6) for nervousness including anxiety and irritability, 2.6% (n=5) for insomnia, 1% (n=2) each for headache, palpitation, and somnolence; and, 0.5% (n=1) each for ALT increase, agitation, chest pain, cocaine craving, elevated blood pressure, and weight loss.

Adverse events occurring in a controlled trial: Adverse events reported in a 3-week clinical trial of pediatric patients and a 4-week clinical trial in adolescents and adults, respectively, treated with ADDERALL XR® or placebo are presented in the tables below.

The prescriber should be aware that these figures cannot be used to predict the incidence of adverse events in the course of usual medical practice where patient characteristics and other factors differ from those which prevailed in the clinical trials. Similarly, the cited frequencies cannot be compared with figures obtained from other clinical investigations involving different treatments, uses, and investigators. The cited figures, however, do provide the prescribing physician with some basis for estimating the relative contribution of drug and non-drug factors to the adverse event incidence rate in the population studied.

The following adverse reactions have been associated with the use of amphetamine, ADDERALL XR®, or ADDERALL®:

Cardiovascular: Palpitations, tachycardia, elevation of blood pressure, sudden death, myocardial infarction. There have been isolated reports of cardiomyopathy associated with chronic amphetamine use.

Central Nervous System: Psychotic episodes at recommended doses, overstimulation, restlessness, dizziness, insomnia, euphoria, dyskinesia, dysphoria, depression, tremor, headache, exacerbation of motor and phonic tics and Tourette's syndrome, seizures, stroke.

Gastrointestinal: Dryness of the mouth, unpleasant taste, diarrhea, constipation, other gastrointestinal disturbances. Anorexia and weight loss may occur as undesirable effects.

Table 1 Adverse Events Reported by More Than 1% of Pediatric Patients Receiving ADDERALL XR® with Higher Incidence Than on Placebo in a 584 Patient Clinical Study

Body System	Preferred Term	ADDERALL XR® (n=374)	Placebo (n=210)
General	Abdominal Pain (stomachache)	14%	10%
	Accidental Injury	3%	2%
	Asthenia (fatigue)	2%	0%
	Fever	3%	2%
	Infection	4%	2%
	Viral Infection	2%	0%
Digestive System	Loss of Appetite	22%	3%
	Diarrhea	3%	1%
	Dyspepsia	3%	1%
	Nausea	5%	3%
	Vomiting	7%	4%
Nervous System	Dizziness	2%	0%
	Emotional Lability	3%	2%
	Insomnia	17%	2%
	Nervousness	6%	2%
Metabolic/Nutritional	Weight Loss	4%	0%

Table 2 Adverse Events Reported by 5% or more of Adolescents Weighing ≥ 75 kg/165 lbs Receiving ADDERALL XR® with Higher Incidence Than Placebo in a 267 Patient Clinical Forced Weekly-Dose Titration Study*

Body System	Preferred Term	ADDERALL XR® (n=233)	Placebo (n=54)
General	Abdominal Pain (stomachache)	11%	2%
Digestive System	Loss of Appetite †	36%	2%
Nervous System	Insomnia †	12%	4%
	Nervousness	6%	6%‡
Metabolic/Nutritional	Weight Loss †	9%	0%

* Appears the same due to rounding
† Dose-related adverse events

Note: The following events did not meet the criterion for inclusion in Table 2 but were reported by 2% to 4% of adolescent patients receiving ADDERALL XR® with a higher incidence than patients receiving placebo in this study: accidental injury, asthenia (fatigue), dry mouth, dyspepsia, emotional lability, nausea, somnolence, and vomiting.
‡Included doses up to 40 mg

Table 3 Adverse Events Reported by 5% or More of Adults Receiving ADDERALL XR® with Higher Incidence Than on Placebo in a 259 Patient Clinical Forced Weekly-Dose Titration Study*

Body System	Preferred Term	ADDERALL XR® (n=191)	Placebo (n=64)
General	Asthenia	6%	5%
	Headache	26%	13%
Digestive System	Loss of Appetite †	33%	3%
	Diarrhea	8%	0%
	Dry Mouth	35%	5%
	Nausea	8%	3%
Nervous System	Agitation	8%	5%
	Anxiety	8%	5%
	Dizziness	7%	0%
	Insomnia	27%	13%
Cardiovascular System	Tachycardia	6%	3%
Metabolic/Nutritional	Weight Loss	11%	0%
Urogenital System	Urinary Tract Infection	5%	0%

Note: The following events did not meet the criterion for inclusion in Table 3 but were reported by 2% to 4% of adult patients receiving ADDERALL XR® with a higher incidence than patients receiving placebo in this study: infection, photosensitivity reaction, constipation, tooth disorder, emotional lability, libido decreased, somnolence, speech disorder, palpitation, twitching, dyspnea, sweating, dysmenorrhea, and impotence.
‡Included doses up to 60 mg

Allergic: Urticaria, rash, hypersensitivity reactions including angioedema and anaphylaxis. Serious skin rashes, including Stevens Johnson Syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis have been reported.

Endocrine: Impotence, changes in libido.

DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE

ADDERALL XR® is a Schedule II controlled substance.

Amphetamines have been extensively abused. Tolerance, extreme psychological dependence, and severe social disability have occurred. There are reports of patients who have increased the dosage to levels many times higher than recommended. Abrupt cessation following prolonged high dosage administration results in extreme fatigue and mental depression; changes are also noted on the sleep EEG. Manifestations of chronic intoxication with amphetamines may include severe dermatoses, marked insomnia, irritability, hyperactivity, and personality changes. The most severe manifestation of chronic intoxication is psychosis, often clinically indistinguishable from schizophrenia.

OVERDOSAGE

Individual patient response to amphetamines varies widely. Toxic symptoms may occur idiosyncratically at low doses.

Symptoms: Manifestations of acute overdosage with amphetamines include restlessness, tremor, hyperreflexia, rapid respiration, confusion, assaultiveness, hallucinations, panic states, hyperpyrexia and rhabdomyolysis. Fatigue and depression usually follow the central nervous system stimulation. Cardiovascular effects include arrhythmias, hypertension or hypotension and circulatory collapse. Gastrointestinal symptoms include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Fatal poisoning is usually preceded by convulsions and coma.

Treatment: Consult with a Certified Poison Control Center for up to date guidance and advice. Management of acute amphetamine intoxication is largely symptomatic and includes gastric lavage, administration of activated charcoal, administration of a cathartic and sedation. Experience with hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis is inadequate to permit recommendation in this regard. Acidification of the urine increases amphetamine excretion, but is believed to increase risk of acute renal failure if myoglobinuria is present. If acute severe hypertension complicates amphetamine overdosage, administration of intravenous phentolamine has been suggested. However, a gradual drop in blood pressure will usually result when sufficient sedation has been achieved. Chlorpromazine antagonizes the central stimulant effects of amphetamines and can be used to treat amphetamine intoxication. The prolonged release of mixed amphetamine salts from ADDERALL XR® should be considered when treating patients with overdose.

Dispense in a tight, light-resistant container as defined in the USP. Store at 25° C (77° F); Excursions permitted to 15-30° C (59-86° F) [see USP Controlled Room Temperature].

Manufactured for: **Shire US Inc.**, Wayne, PA 19087 Made in USA For more information call 1-800-828-2088, or visit www.adderallxr.com. ADDERALL® and ADDERALL XR® are registered in the US Patent and Trademark Office. Copyright ©2006 Shire US Inc.

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Federal Team Arrests 38 for Medicare Fraud

A multiagency "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