

Take Your PIC

A monthly publication on prescription improvement in New Mexico Vol. 4, Issue 8 August 2009

Please forward this newsletter to those in your organization that can benefit from the information. Note that a number of useful links to the Internet are embedded. To fully benefit from the content presented, view this newsletter electronically and click on the [green type](#). Electronic versions of *Take Your PIC* can be accessed at www.nmmra.org/resources/?group=63.

For more information on any of these topics or to subscribe, unsubscribe, or suggest topics for *Take Your PIC*, contact [Galina Priloutskaya](#) at (505) 998-9765.

This material was prepared by the New Mexico Medical Review Association (NMMRA), the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for New Mexico, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy. 950W-NM-PD-09-26

First Statewide Recommendation Issued on Potentially Inappropriate Medications in the Elderly

The New Mexico Prescription Improvement Coalition (NMPIC) has issued a clinical recommendation titled, "Medications to be Used with Caution in the Elderly," on Thursday, August 27, 2009 in conjunction with the 2009 New Mexico Conference on Aging at Sandia Resort and Casino. This statewide recommendation is the first of its kind in the nation.

Cabinet Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Health, Alfredo Vigil, MD, opened the program as special guest. Additional speakers from NMPIC's Potentially Inappropriate Medications (PIM) Advisory Board included Larry Georgopoulos, PharmD, from Presbyterian Health Plan and NMPIC chair; Melanie Dodd, PharmD, PhC, BCPS, from the University of New Mexico College of Pharmacy (UNMCOP) and NMPIC clinical advisor; Amy Bachyrycz, PharmD, from UNMCOP and PIM Advisory Board chair; Willie Orr, MD, of Evercare of New Mexico/United; and Anne Simpson, MD, of the UNM Health Sciences Center; and Rich Reynolds, MS, PharmD, from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Mexico.

The recommendation has been jointly endorsed by many health care organizations serving the state of New Mexico, and, as of August 20, included Amerigroup, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Mexico, Evercare, Express Scripts, Humana, Lovelace Health Plan, Molina Health Care of New Mexico, New Mexico Association for Home and Hospice Care, New Mexico Health Care Association, New Mexico Medical Review Association, New Mexico Osteopathic Medical Association, New Mexico Pharmacists Association, New Mexico Prescription Improvement Coalition, New Mexico Society of Health-System Pharmacists, New Mexico VA Health Care System, Presbyterian Health Plan, UnitedHealthcare – New Mexico, and the University of New Mexico College of Pharmacy. More organizations are expected to follow suit over the next several weeks.

The recommendation was developed by a consensus panel of health care providers, including pharmacists, geriatric providers and managed care specialists from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Mexico, Evercare/United Healthcare – New Mexico, Express Scripts, Lovelace Health Plan, NMMRA, New Mexico Department of Health, New Mexico Veterans HealthCare System, Presbyterian Health Plan, University of New Mexico College of Pharmacy, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center. The group evaluated a number of nationally published lists of potentially inappropriate medications and criteria to develop the statewide recommendation, which includes alternative suggestions.

"Thousands of people die from medication errors, and many others are hospitalized unnecessarily," Dr. Vigil remarked. "These numbers are unacceptable and I'm grateful to the New Mexico Medical Review Association for undertaking this activity."

"Use of this recommendation will improve patient safety throughout the state," says William Orr, MD, medical director for Evercare/United and member of the consensus panel. "Additionally, efficiency of health care should see an increase and adverse drug events a reduction in the mature population."

For more information on the recommendation or NMPIC, please [contact Galina Priloutskaya](#).