

August 26, 2009

First Statewide Recommendation on Potentially Inappropriate Medications in the Elderly to be Issued in Albuquerque on August 27

What: According to the Institute of Medicine, 7,000 Americans die each year from medication errors, more than workplace injury. Medicare data for New Mexico show that in 2007-08 every fifth medication prescribed to Medicare beneficiaries is potentially inappropriate and every 11th medication prescribed is a drug to be avoided in the elderly (Medicare Part D claims 10/01/2007-03/31/08).

The New Mexico Prescription Improvement Coalition (NMPIC) is issuing a clinical recommendation on potentially inappropriate medications titled, "Medications to be Used with Caution in the Elderly," on Thursday in conjunction with the 2009 New Mexico Conference on Aging. Cabinet Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Health Alfredo Vigil, MD, will open the program as special guest.

Who: This statewide recommendation is the first of its kind in the nation and has been endorsed by many health care organizations serving the state of New Mexico, including the following:

- 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 State Veterans' Home
- Presbyterian Health Plan
- UnitedHealthcare – New Mexico
- 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, 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.

Where: Sandia Resort and Casino, 30 Rainbow Road NE, Hummingbird A, Albuquerque

When: Thursday, August 27, 2009, 12:15 to 1:00 p.m.

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