STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Corning Tower The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza Albany, New York 12237

Richard F. Daines, M.D.
Commissioner

Wendy E. Saunders
Executive Deputy Commissioner

July 17, 2009

Dear Pharmacy Provider:

On April 24, 2009, the New York State Medicaid Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee reviewed 21 drug classes currently subject to the Preferred Drug Program (PDP). The Commissioner of Health has accepted the recommendations of the Committee and has approved changes in the preferred or non-preferred status of certain drugs subject to the PDP. Effective August 19, 2009, prior authorization requirements will change for some drugs in the following four drug classes:

- Angiotensin Converting Enzyme Inhibitors (ACEIs)
- Bisphosphonates – Oral
- Corticosteroids - Inhaled
- Triglyceride Lowering Agents

Enclosed is the most current Quick List, providing a listing of preferred drugs for each of the therapeutic classes currently subject to the PDP. Additional information, such as updated prior authorization forms, and clinical criteria for the PDP and the Clinical Drug Review Program (CDRP) is available at the following websites:

http://www.nyhealth.gov or http://newyork.fhsc.com or www.eMedNY.org

Prescriptions for non-preferred drugs carry a prior authorization number ending with a "W," which alerts pharmacy providers to select the non-preferred drug option when calling to validate a prior authorization. To validate a prior authorization for a non-preferred drug within the drug classes listed above, please call the prior authorization Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system at 1-877-309-9493. Be sure to listen for the appropriate prompts. If you have any questions, please contact the clinical call center, available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, at 1-877-309-9493.

In addition, the New York State Medicaid Clinical Drug Review Program (CDRP) is expanding to include palivizumab (Synagis®). Additional information will be made available at a later date.

Thank you for your continued support of our efforts to maintain a quality pharmacy program for Medicaid and Family Health Plus enrollees.

Sincerely,

Linda J. Jones, R.N.
Director, Medicaid Pharmacy Program
Office of Health Insurance Programs

Enclosure (Quick List 06/24/2009)