

Jeanny Phillips, Interim Deputy Administrator/  
DMAP Policy & Planning Section Manager

**Authorized Signature**

**Number:** DMAP IM 07-133

**Issue Date:** 09/18/2007

**Topic:** Medical Benefits

**Subject:** Client & Provider announcements about prescription sedatives

**Applies to (check all that apply):**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees             | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging        | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children, Adults and Families | <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors and People with Disabilities   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD Program Managers    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): DHS staff and others identified on the SPD, CAF, AMH and DMAP transmittal lists |

**Message:** Beginning October 1, 2007, DMAP will begin requiring PA on sleep aids. PA requirements were to begin March 15, 2007, to ensure that prescriptions are for conditions on the prioritized list. This date was subsequently delayed to October 1, 2007. Only clients who have been using these sedative prescriptions will receive a letter. All prescribers and pharmacies will also receive announcements. Samples of the client and provider announcements follow.

*If you have any questions about this information, contact:*

<b>Contact(s):</b>	Debbie Bishop, DMAP Pharmacy Policy Analyst	
<b>Phone:</b>	(503) 945-6492	<b>Fax:</b>
<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:debbie.bishop@state.or.us">debbie.bishop@state.or.us</a>	



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

**Department of Human Services**  
*Division of Medical Assistance Programs*  
500 Summer Street NE, E35  
Salem, OR 97301-1077  
**Voice (503) 945-5772**  
**FAX (503) 373-7689**  
**TTY (503) 378-6791**

September 18, 2007

To: Oregon Health Plan clients

From: Jean S. Phillips, Interim Deputy Administrator  
Division of Medical Assistance Programs

Subject: Prescriptions for sleep aids (sedatives)



Starting October 1, 2007, the Oregon Health Plan (OHP) will change coverage for sedative prescription drugs (sleep aids). We have notified your health care providers of these changes.

OHP usually does not cover treatment for insomnia (not able to sleep). OHP may pay for prescription sleep aids if the insomnia is connected to certain other health conditions that are covered (for example, depression or bi-polar disease).

Our records show that sometime between July 15, 2007, and August 23, 2007, you had a prescription for medication to help you sleep. Your doctor will have to contact the Division of Medical Assistance Programs (DMAP) to see if your conditions qualify before OHP will pay for your sleeping aids from now on.

Affected medicines include Ambien CR, Lunesta, Rozerem and Sonata or similar generic drugs (*e.g.*, eszopiclone, ramelteon, zaleplon, temzepam, triazolam, flurazepam, quazepam).

Also, OHP will no longer cover use of two different sedatives at the same time for the same month.

**Questions?** Contact the OHP Client Services Unit (CSU) at 800-273-0557.

DMAP CU 07-170

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September 18, 2007

To: Prescribing Providers and Pharmacies  
From: Jean S. Phillips, Interim Deputy Administrator  
Division of Medical Assistance Programs



Subject: PA on prescriptions for sedatives

DMAP previously informed you that on March 15, 2007, we would start requiring prior authorization (PA) for sedatives. That date was subsequently delayed to October 1, 2007. The Oregon Health Plan does not cover treatment for uncomplicated insomnia. DMAP may pay for sleep aids with prior authorization (PA) if the insomnia is associated with certain other health conditions (*e.g.*, depression, bi-polar disease) that are covered on Oregon Health Services Commission's Prioritized List. The following will happen beginning October 1:

- DMAP will require PA for certain sedatives in order to ensure that prescriptions are for conditions currently covered on the Prioritized List. The sedatives affected include non-benzodiazepines (*e.g.*, eszopiclone, ramelteon, zaleplon).
- DMAP will continue to require PA for more than 15 doses per 30 days for benzodiazepines (*e.g.*, temazepam, triazolam, flurazepam, quazempam, estazolam).
- DMAP will not pay for concurrent use of two different sedatives in the same month.
- Prescribing providers who currently treat patients, or who begin to treat patients, with newer sedative hypnotics must request a PA for continued treatment. A 60-day transition period for current patients allows more time for PA requests to process and to avoid therapy disruption.

## Requesting PAs

Prescribing providers may delegate any licensed medical personnel in their offices to call the Help Desk at the First Health Managed Access Program (MAP) to request PA at: 800-344-9180; fax number: 800-250-6950. The prescription PA form is available at the end of the Pharmaceutical Services Supplemental Information online at [www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/healthplan/guides/pharmacy/rxsupp0807.pdf](http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/healthplan/guides/pharmacy/rxsupp0807.pdf).

**Questions?** Contact Provider Services: 800-336-6016 or e-mail [dmap.providerservices@state.or.us](mailto:dmap.providerservices@state.or.us).

DMAP CU 07-169

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