

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
Olympia, Washington**

To: All Prescribers
Managed Care Organizations
Nursing Facility Administrators
Pharmacists
Regional Support Networks

**# Memo: 09-54
Issued: July 08, 2009**

From: Douglas Porter, Assistant Secretary
Health and Recovery Services
Administration

For further information, go to:
<http://hrsa.dshs.wa.gov/pharmacy>

Subject: Prescription Drug Program: Limitations on Blood Glucose Test Strips and Lancets

Effective for dates of service on and after August 1, 2009, the Department of Social & Health Services (DSHS) will:

- Implement maximum allowable quantities for blood glucose test strips and lancets; and
- Make additions to the Expedited Authorization (EA) List.

Limitations on Diabetic Supply Items

Effective August 1, 2009, DSHS will limit blood glucose test strips and lancets to:

- 100 per 3 months if the client is not insulin dependent; or
- 100 per month if the client is insulin dependent (see Expedited Authorization criteria on next page)

DSHS will allow blood glucose test strips and lancets for pregnant women with gestational diabetes up to the quantity necessary to support testing as directed by their physician, with the use of Expedited Authorization (EA).

The State Legislature has directed the DSHS to reduce its expenditures in order to help balance the budget. This means certain services DSHS has provided in the past will only be available in a reduced amount. Because these coverage limitations apply to all medical assistance clients equally, there will be no continuation of the affected services on or after August 1, 2009.

With the help of their medical practitioner, clients may request authorization to exceed the limit. Please see the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) available at:

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=388-501-0160> for detailed requirements regarding requests for authorization to exceed a limit. For additional information and how to access DSHS request forms, please go to:

<http://fortress.wa.gov/dshs/maa/News/DMEChanges.htm>

Changes to the Expedited Authorization (EA) List

Effective August 1, 2009, DSHS is adding EA codes to allow larger quantities of blood glucose test strips and lancets for insulin-dependent clients or pregnant women with gestational diabetes. DSHS will allow insulin-dependent clients up to 100 test strips and 100 lancets per month. DSHS will allow pregnant women with gestational diabetes up to the quantity necessary to support testing as directed by their physician.

Product	Code	Criteria
Blood Glucose	263	Gestational Diabetes (up to two months post delivery)
Test Strips	264	Insulin dependent diabetic
Lancets	263	Gestational Diabetes (up to two months post delivery)
	264	Insulin dependent diabetic

Updated Expedited Authorization (EA) List

DSHS has updated the EA List with the changes discussed in this memo. You may view and download the updated lists at:

http://hrsa.dshs.wa.gov/download/Billing%20Instructions%20Web%20Pages/Prescription_Drug_Program.html.

How Can I Get DSHS/HRSA Provider Documents?

To obtain DSHS/HRSA provider numbered memoranda and billing instructions, go to the DSHS/HRSA website at <http://hrsa.dshs.wa.gov> (click the ***Billing Instructions and Numbered Memorandum*** link). These documents may be downloaded and printed.