

## Medication Payment Policy

Date Implemented: 1/10/13

Date(s) Updated: \_\_\_\_\_

Regulation(s) supporting the need for this policy:

### **POLICY:**

Some of the individuals served by Innovations are prescribed medication that is not covered by insurance, which means that Innovations must pay for the cost of the medication. Innovations will take steps to eliminate this cost.

### **PROCEDURE:**

#### **What this specifically affects:**

- 1) This new policy does not affect all prescription and over-the-counter medications. It only affects medications that are not covered by an individual's insurance and that are non-critical to the health needs of the individual. The process of determining what medications are affected will be taken on an administrative level. Providers and staff do not need to worry about what medications this affects. Someone from Innovations Nursing and/or the Program Manager will contact you if a medication will no longer be covered.
  - a) Note that for Innovations Providers there may be a pause between the time that a script is turned in and when the medication is filled if the medication is not covered through the individual's insurance.
- 2) At the current time, individuals are not allowed to pay for over-the-counter medications out of personal needs money or wage money.
  - a) Some services (such as dental services or durable medical equipment), in limited cases can be covered by Personal Needs Money. This will be handled on an individual basis, and should be coordinated with the Innovations Accounting Clerk.

#### **Steps to take when a medication is not covered**

- 1) When a non-critical medication is not covered by insurance, the first step is to determine whether the medication was specifically requested by someone on the individual's IDT (typically a family member or guardian).
  - a) If it is not readily known who requested the medication, skip to step #2 below.
  - b) If we know who specifically requested the medication, we will contact that person to inform him or her that the medication is not covered, and that we plan on contacting the physician to request a different, covered medication be prescribed.
    - i. At this point, the person requesting the medication may offer to pay for the medication. If that is the case, the Program Manager and Regulatory Business Analyst will coordinate payment.



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- 2) Next, the Nurse Case Manager will contact the physician who prescribed the medication to see if she or he is willing to prescribe a similar medication that would be covered by the individual's insurance.
- 3) If no similar medication is available, or if the physician does not think an alternate medication is appropriate, the Nurse Case Manager will ask the physician to determine whether the medication is critical to the health needs of the individual.
  - a) If the physician determines that the medication is non-critical to care, the Nurse Case Manager will ask the physician to re-word the medication order to a "recommendation," or to discontinue the medication entirely.
    - i. If the physician agrees to re-word the order or discontinue the medication, an Innovations Administrative representative will contact PDC Pharmacy to cancel the medication order.
    - ii. If the physician does not agree to re-word or discontinue the medication, payment will be arranged within the Inter-Disciplinary Team.
  - b) If the medication is determined to be critical to care, payment will be arranged within the Inter-Disciplinary Team.