Drug Use Review (DUR) Alert: Drug-Drug Interaction

Description: Drug-drug interactions create the potential for an adverse medical event when beneficiaries receive two or more drugs together. Medi-Cal uses First Databank (FDB) MedKnowledge clinical modules for drug interaction alerts for Severity Level 1 only, which is defined as “drug combinations that are contraindicated and generally should not be dispensed or administered to the same patient.” A manufacturer label warning that indicates the contraindication warrants inclusion of a drug combination in this category regardless of clinical evidence or lack of clinical evidence to support the contraindication. The drug-drug interaction alert is currently active for all drugs.

Alert(s): DD – Drug-Drug Interaction

Message(s): [Label name] interacts with this Rx

Manual Drug Use Review (DUR) Protocol:

Pharmacists performing manual DUR must maintain beneficiary medication records. Prior to dispensing any drug, the drug must be screened against the existing medication record to identify drug-drug interactions. In the absence of a current drug information database, a manufacturer’s package insert for the drug being dispensed may be used to check possible interactions against a beneficiary’s medication profile.

References:
- United States Pharmacopeia Drug Information (USP DI)
- American Hospital Formulary Service Drug Information (AHFS DI)
- Manufacturers’ information
- Human clinical trials
- Case reports
- Meeting abstracts
- In vitro/animal studies
- Review articles
- Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
- Global Medi-Cal DUR Board

Note: Proprietary pharmacy software for prescription processing systems may display DUR alerts in different formats. Examples are provided to acquaint the pharmacist with the standard content of Medi-Cal’s DUR messages that may be different from the message displayed on the pharmacist’s computer terminal.