



The Point

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Making diabetes care better, less frustrating and more fun since 2008

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **Medi-Cal changes**
- **Clarification of Lantus coverage and HSF**
- **A new insulin glargine**

MEDI-CAL CHANGES

Effective January 1, 2021, managed medi-cal will transition to a statewide fee-for-service medi-cal. This new plan is called **Medi-Cal Rx**, authorized by Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-01-19, to standardize pharmacy benefits state-wide and to achieve cost savings of medications purchased by the state. For our patients with diabetes who have SFHP medi-cal and Anthem BC medi-cal, this means changes in formulary coverage and the prior authorization process. We do anticipate a 6 month grace period after January 2021 to make any necessary transitions.

The list of diabetes medications and devices under Medi-cal Rx has yet to be finalized. It is likely that meters, insulin pens/vials and most classes of diabetes medications will still be available. We are concerned that the only GLP-1 agonist options currently proposed for the new formulary include dulaglutide (Trulicity) and exenatide IR and ER (Byetta, Bydureon), and not liraglutide (Victoza) or semaglutide (Ozempic) which many of our patients use and which have stronger evidence for glycemic control, weight loss and cardiovascular benefits. Also uncertain is whether continuous glucose monitors like the Freestyle Libre will be covered at all or changed from pharmacy benefit to DME supply.

We are actively monitoring and advocating for our patients and will keep you posted.

More details on **Medi-Cal Rx** [here](#)

CLARIFICATION OF LANTUS COVERAGE AND HSF

You may have noticed a recent glitch in HSF patients getting Lantus.

Sanofi, the maker of Lantus (glargine), abruptly withdrew from the 340B drug pricing program on October 1, 2020. As a result, the HSF pharmacy benefits manager had to stop adjudicating Lantus prescriptions for a brief period of time. During that time, providers may have had to submit prior authorizations for Lantus. If you encounter any problems with Lantus coverage for HSF patients, CPC pharmacists can help troubleshoot.

Remember, Lantus (vial) remains on the HSF formulary with the same restrictions :

- patients with T1DM, or
- patients with T2DM who have had repeated hypoglycemia on NPH

Outside of these restrictions, Lantus requires a prior authorization.

A NEW INSULIN GLARGINE

Insulin pricing in the U.S. is inexcusably high and there is interest in more affordable insulins.

Semglee, a new longacting insulin glargine made by Mylan and Biocon Biologics, was recently approved by the FDA, though not widely available yet. Semglee is available as a disposable 3 mL pen (15 mL is a box of 5 pens) and 10 mL vial. Unit for unit, it is dosed the same as glargine (Lantus or Basaglar).

Currently, we are not aware of Semglee being on any formularies, but this may change in the new year, especially with Medicare part D plans. Stay tuned.



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