



Better Health Care for All Floridians

FLORIDA MEDICAID

A Division of the Agency for Health Care Administration

Health Care Alerts & Provider Alerts Messages March 2011

Provider Type(s): 20, 25, 26, 29, 30

Short-Acting Beta-2 Agonists Limits

The increased utilization of short-acting beta-2 agonists (SABA's) has been associated with worsening asthma symptoms and an increased risk of death (see footnote 1). The excessive, uncontrolled use of drugs in this class contribute to the increasing rates in asthma mortality seen in most countries. International consensus guidelines now generally recommend using short-acting beta-2 agonists only for the relief of symptoms, on an as-needed basis (see footnote 2). Florida Medicaid has instituted limits on the number of SABA's that a recipient may receive during one month. We encourage providers to speak with recipients regarding the proper use of short-acting beta-2 agonists for asthma. The Global Initiative for Asthma (GIA) provides guidelines and other resources for providers via www.ginasthma.com.

1. Spitzer WO, Suissa S, Ernst P, et al. The Use of Beta-Agonists and the Risk of Death and Near Death from Asthma. *N Engl J med* 1992; 326: 501-506.
 2. www.nhlbi.nih.gov.
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LINKS

[Florida Medicaid Web Portal](#) | [Florida Medicaid Health Information Network](#) | [Florida Medicaid HIPAA Information](#) | [HIPAA Transactions & Code Sets Standard](#) | [National Identifiers](#) | [Florida Medicaid EHR Incentive Program](#) | [FloridaHealthFinder.gov](#)

QUESTIONS ABOUT FLORIDA MEDICAID?

Please direct questions about Medicaid policies to your local Medicaid area office. The Medicaid area offices' addresses and phone numbers are available on the [Area Offices](#) Web page.

ALERTS INFORMATION

The Florida Medicaid program has created an e-mail alert system to supplement the present method of receiving Provider Alerts information and to alert registered subscribers of "late-breaking" health care information. An e-mail will be delivered to your mailbox when Medicaid policy clarifications or other health care information is available that is appropriate for your selected area and provider type.

Visit the [Florida Medicaid's Health Care Alerts](#) page to subscribe now. You may unsubscribe or update your subscription at any time by clicking on "Manage your subscription" at the bottom of this e-mail. Other questions regarding the e-mail alert system can be sent to the [Florida Medicaid Alerts Administrator](#).

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