

South Carolina  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Post Office Box 8206  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8206  
[www.scdhhs.gov](http://www.scdhhs.gov)  
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## MEDICAID BULLETIN

Phys  
OMP  
MC  
Hosp  
Med Clin  
MHRC  
Pharm

**To: Providers indicated**

**SUBJECT: Barbiturate and Benzodiazepine Coverage Changes for Dual Eligibles under Medicare Part D Plans**

Effective January 1, 2013, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) will exclude coverage for barbiturates “used in the treatment of epilepsy, cancer, or a chronic mental health disorder” and benzodiazepines for dual eligible individuals (Medicare/Medicaid). This exclusion of coverage applies only to dual eligible individuals.

SCDHHS is implementing this change as a result of an amendment of the Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA). Section 1860D-2(e) (2) (A) of MIPPA was amended to include barbiturates “used in the treatment of epilepsy, cancer, or a chronic mental health disorder” and benzodiazepines under Medicare Part D drug coverage for dual eligible individuals (Medicare/Medicaid).

Please refer any questions regarding this bulletin to the SCDHHS Provider Service Center at 1-888-289-0709. Thank you for your continued support of the South Carolina Medicaid Program.

/s/  
Anthony E. Keck  
Director