healthfirst
Health Insurance for New Yorkers

Provider Alert

September 28, 2020

Metformin Extended Release (ER) Recall: Prescribing Alternative Products

Earlier this year, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) began alerting patients and providers on the **recall of generic extended release (ER) metformin medications**. This was due to testing results that show N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) above the acceptable intake limit. As a result, many providers have shifted to prescribing brand name ER metformin, including Glumetza, Glucophage XR, and Fortamet.

Healthfirst is advising that all providers avoid prescribing brand name ER metformin because it has a high copay for Healthfirst members and may lead to non-adherence of these important medications.

Per FDA recommendations, we advise that providers prescribe affordable generic immediate release (IR) metformin as an alternative to brand name ER metformin when clinically appropriate. IR metformin medications have not shown an unacceptable level of NDMA, are more affordable, and can help ensure medication adherence for patients to properly control their diabetes.

These are the more affordable IR metformin formulations available:

- Metformin HCl Tablet 500 mg
- Metformin HCl Tablet 850 mg
- Metformin HCl Tablet 1000 mg

For a list of the ER metformin recalls, please visit:
https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/search-list-recalled-metformin-products.

For the latest safety updates from the FDA, please visit:
https://www.fda.gov/safety/recalls-market-withdrawals-safety-alerts.

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