

Q's and A's 'LU' Intervention Code

Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary/Comparative Drug Index (Formulary) Limited Use Modernization Strategy May 31, 2005

We are pleased to announce that an enhancement has been made to the adjudication process for Limited Use (LU) claims. Effective May 31, 2005, a new intervention code has been created for new Limited Use prescriptions. By entering the intervention code "LU" and the appropriate Reason for Use code (RFU) when submitting a claim for a new Limited Use prescription, the Health Network System (HNS) will display the message "LU authorization began Mmm dd, yyyy". This message will appear with each subsequent claim for that product, thus assisting in determining the expiry date of the Limited Use form. In addition, you may now file the Limited Use form with the prescription hard copy for the claim on which the LU intervention code was submitted. The Limited Use form must be kept on file with the prescription hard copy and is subject to audit. It is essential that the LU intervention code only be submitted when a new Limited Use form is received.

This enhancement is part of the ministry's Limited Use modernization strategy. The Drug Programs Branch, in conjunction with the Ontario Pharmacists' Association and the Ontario Medical Association, has been working on an initiative to streamline the Limited Use process for physicians, pharmacists and patients. The introduction of the LU intervention code will allow the HNS to track the start date of the authorization period. Further enhancements to the HNS may be made to support the Limited Use process. We hope to update you with further news in the near future.

The following questions and answers are intended to address some situations that may arise when using the new LU intervention code:

Q1: What is the LU intervention code?

A1: The LU intervention code is a new code that is submitted with claims for new Limited Use prescriptions. By entering the intervention code "LU" and the appropriate Reason for Use code (RFU) when submitting a claim for a new Limited Use prescription, the Health Network System (HNS) will display the message "LU authorization began Mmm dd, yyyy". This message will appear with each subsequent claim for the same product, thus assisting in determining the expiry date of the Limited Use form.

Q2: What is the effective date of the Limited Use (LU) authorization?

A2: The LU authorization begins on the day that the first new claim is submitted on the HNS. This is a change from the current policy, where the effective date has been the date that the LU form was completed by the prescriber.

Q3: When is the LU intervention code used?

A3: The LU intervention code is to be used only when a new LU form is received. It is intended to indicate the start date of a new LU authorization period.

Q4: When is the LU intervention code NOT to be used?

A4: The LU intervention code is not to be used for repeats. If this occurs, the LU authorization effective date will be incorrectly re-set to the date of the most recent claim. The intervention code must only be used when a new LU form is received. The RFU code must continue to be submitted for all LU claims, including repeats.

Pharmacy software vendors have been instructed to ensure that the LU intervention code is not automatically carried forward for repeat prescriptions. If this does occur, the dispensing pharmacist must manually delete the LU intervention code before submitting the claim.

Also, the LU intervention code must not be used with Plavix (clopidogrel) claims, as it already has its own special network rules for LU eligibility.

Q5: What happens if the prescription is transferred to another pharmacy?

A5: The receiving pharmacy must still obtain a copy of the LU form from the originating pharmacy as per current policy. The receiving pharmacy must not enter the LU intervention code. When the claim is submitted, the network will display the LU authorization effective date based on the original claim made by the originating pharmacy. The receiving pharmacy must file the copy of the LU form with the prescription hard copy.

Q6: How long is the LU authorization valid?

A6: The LU prescription form is valid for one year from the date that the prescription is first filled. This is a change from the current policy, where the form has been valid for one year from the date completed by the prescriber. Pharmacists are still responsible for ensuring that a new LU form is obtained at the end of this one year period.

Q7: What happens if a patient presents a new LU form and there is already an LU authorization in place for the same drug and RFU?

A7: A new LU form creates a new authorization period, so the LU intervention code must be entered when the prescription is filled. The network will then display the new LU authorization effective date.

Q8: How long do I need to keep the LU form?

A8: As per regulation, pharmacies are required to retain LU forms on file in the pharmacy for a period of two years from the date on which the form was received.

Q9: What if the ministry changes the RFU and the patient still has a valid LU form?

A9: The “grandparenting” RFU 279 may be used for the remainder of the LU authorization period for products where there has been a change in the RFU code, as per current policy. The dispensing pharmacist should not use the LU intervention code with RFU 279.

Q10: Is the LU intervention code used with RFU 979 for patients admitted to long-term care (LTC) facilities?

A10: No. RFU 979 is only used for LU drugs in the absence of a completed LU form. RFU 979 is a three-month transition LU code to allow the physician time to ensure the new LTC patients' eligibility for the LU drug. Once the physician has determined that the patient is eligible for LU coverage of a certain drug, the LU intervention code must be used with a completed LU form.

Q11. What does a pharmacy do if a claim is submitted accidentally with the LU intervention code but without a new LU form (e.g., with a repeat)?

A11: The network will display the new LU authorization start date. Therefore, a note should be made in the file of the error, and the ODB Help Desk must be contacted at 1-800-668-6641 to request inactivation of the "new" LU authorization that was created in error. Pharmacists have a 7-day period to reverse and resubmit the claim. Future enhancements are planned to allow LU authorizations to be reversed.