



JEB BUSH, GOVERNOR

RHONDA M. MEDOWS, MD, FAAFP, SECRETARY

April 5, 2002

Dear Pharmacist:

The Florida Medicaid Bureau of Pharmacy Services is working to improve patient care and decrease fraud and abuse. The bureau has identified the fraudulent diversion of pharmaceutical products as a serious problem with far reaching effects on the Medicaid program and its recipients.

In an effort to control this problem, the bureau is implementing new requirements for the dispensing of drugs to Medicaid recipients in Dade, Broward, Monroe, and Palm Beach counties. Effective April 15th, all pharmacies in these counties shall be required to dispense drugs in accordance with one of the following three methodologies:

1. Remove drugs from original manufacturers' packaging and place in pharmacy vials.
2. Inscribe "M" on the original manufacturers' packaging with an indelible black marker. The "M" should be readily visible on the packaging and no less than one inch in size.
3. Remove manufacturers' seals from the original containers.

This is a pilot program that may be expanded statewide. Your cooperation is necessary to insure its success. Please be advised that failure to comply with these new requirements may result in fines, suspension, or termination from the Medicaid program. Any disciplinary actions taken by this agency will be reported to the board of pharmacy. You should inform patients of the program by distributing a copy of the enclosed letter or posting the enclosed sign in the store.

Thank you for your assistance and for your continuing participation in the Medicaid program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George J. Kitchens".

George Kitchens, R.Ph.
Bureau Chief
Medicaid Pharmacy Services

GK/ef
enclosures

