




STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
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MEMO NOS.
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MEMORANDUM

TO: QUEST Integration (QI) Health Plans
Medicaid Fee-for-Service (FFS) Physicians and Pharmacies

FROM:  Judy Mohr Peterson, PhD
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SUBJECT: MEDICAID BENEFITS FOR THE PREVENTION OF ZIKA VIRUS TRANSMISSION

Zika infection during pregnancy can lead to severe birth defects including microcephaly which can result in severe developmental delays. Due to this potential risk of birth defects, Hawaii Medicaid has elected to cover mosquito repellents for women of childbearing age.

Background

On June 1, 2016, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a bulletin regarding Medicaid benefits available for the prevention, detection, and response to the Zika virus. Refer to the following link for details: www.medicare.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/cib060116.pdf. CMS has given state Medicaid programs the option to cover mosquito repellents for the prevention of Zika virus transmission.

There have been 14 individuals in Hawaii diagnosed with travel-associated Zika infection³. There are no reported cases of locally acquired Zika in Hawaii. However, Hawaii does have the specific *Aedes* mosquito species capable of transmitting Zika virus. The National Governors Association notes, "Texas, Florida, and Hawaii are likely to have the highest incidence of local transmission of Zika virus by mosquitoes, historically based on similar virus patterns"¹⁰.

Coverage Criteria

Effective November 1, 2016, through October 31, 2017, Hawaii Medicaid will cover mosquito repellents under the following conditions:

- The mosquito repellent is an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellent with one of the following active ingredients: DEET 25% or picaridin 20%.
- The mosquito repellent is prescribed by a health professional with prescriptive authority in Hawaii.
- Prescription is for a pregnant or non-pregnant woman 14 - 45 years of age.
- Two bottles (as defined in Table 2: Mosquito Repellents) of mosquito repellent every thirty (30) days will be allowed.
- Mosquito repellent will be dispensed at pharmacy with patient education.

Provider Guidance

The valid prescription¹¹ must include the active ingredient, quantity dispensed, directions for use, and number of available refills. Prescription examples include but are not limited to the following:

DEET 25% spray
 Dispense 6 oz.
 Use as directed
 Refill x 1 year

Picaridin 20%
 Dispense 4 oz.
 Use as directed
 Refill x 1 year

Mosquito repellents containing DEET 5-10% have a shorter duration of action at 1 - 2 hours. DEET 25% and picaridin 20% have a longer duration of action at several hours. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that children use DEET at concentrations of 30% or lower. Mosquito repellents containing DEET have a longer track record of use and more commonly available at outlets and pharmacies.

Table 1: Summary of Active Ingredients DEET and Picaridin

Covered Active Ingredient	Recommended Concentration for Children ^{1,2,4,5}	Duration of Effect By Concentration ^{1,2,4,5,6}	Safe with Pregnancy or Breastfeeding ^{1,2,4,6,7}	Comments ^{1,2,3,4,7,8}
DEET 25%	DEET 25% Approved for use in children.	25% = 5 hr.	Yes	Gold standard May damage synthetic fabrics Used worldwide since 1957
Picaridin 20%	Picaridin 20% Not approved for use in children.	20% = 7-10 hr.	Yes	Does not damage clothing Generally as effective as DEET Available in U.S. since 2005

Pharmacy Billing Guidance

Please contact the Medicaid health plans directly for billing instructions. For Hawaii Medicaid beneficiaries enrolled in the Medicaid transplant program, please contact Xerox (Hawaii Medicaid's fiscal agent) at 952-5570 (Oahu) or (808) 235-4378 (neighbor islands) for billing instructions.

The QI health plans will cover mosquito repellents listed below in Table 2, for Medicaid beneficiaries meeting criteria outlined previously.

Table 2: Medicaid Eligible Mosquito Repellents

Product Name	Bottle Size	NDC	UPC
Cutter Backwoods 25% Spray	170 gm (6 oz.)	71121096280	071121962805
OFF! Deep Woods Dry 25% Spray	113 gm (4 oz.)	46500071764	046500717642
OFF! Deep Woods 25% Spray	170 gm (6 oz.)	46500001842	046500018428
Repel Sportsmen 25% Spray	184 gm (6.5 oz.)	11423094137	011423941375
Natrapel 20% Picaridin	177 ml (5 fl. oz.)	44224006878	044224068781
Sawyer Repellent 20% Picaridin	118 ml (4 fl. oz.)	50716000544	050716005448

References

- ¹ Comparison of insect repellents. *Pharmacist's Letter*. 2016; Detail-Document #: 320402. <http://pharmacistsletter.therapeuticresearch.com/pl/ArticlePDF.aspx?cs=&s=PL&DocumentFileID=0&DetailID=320402&SegmentID=0>. Accessed June 6, 2016.
- ² Breisch NL. Prevention of arthropod and insect bites: repellents and other measures. In: UpToDate, Golden DB (Ed). UpToDate, Waltham, MA. https://www.uptodate.com/contents/prevention-of-arthropod-and-insect-bites-repellents-and-othermeasures?source=search_result&search=prevention+arthropod+insect+bites+repellent&selectedTitle=2~150. Updated March 17, 2016; accessed June 6, 2016.
- ³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Zika virus: prevention. <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/prevention/>. Updated October 12, 2016. Accessed October 13, 2016.
- ⁴ Insect repellents. *Med Lett Drugs Ther*. 2016; 58(1498):83.
- ⁵ American Academy of Pediatrics. 2016 summer safety tips. <https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/news-features-and-safety-tips/pages/Summer-SafetyTips.aspx?nfstatus=401,401&nftoken=00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000&nfstatusdescription=ERROR:+No+local+token>. Accessed June 14, 2016.
- ⁶ Nasci RS, Wirtz RA, Brogdon WG. Chapter 2: Protection against mosquitoes, ticks, and other arthropods. In: The Yellow Book Online. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2016/the-pre-travel-consultation/protection-against-mosquitoes-ticks-other-arthropods>. Published July 10, 2015. Accessed June 16, 2016.
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- ⁸ Fradin MS, Day JF. Comparative efficacy of insect repellents against mosquito bites. *N Engl J Med*. 347; 1:13-18.
- ⁹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Zika Virus: Case Counts in the US. <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/united-states.html>. Updated September 14, 2016. Accessed September 20, 2016.
- ¹⁰ National Governors Association. Zika in the States. <http://www.nga.org/cms/zika-in-the-states-what-you-need-to-know>. Updated September 16, 2016. Accessed September 20, 2016.
- ¹¹ Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 16 Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Chapter 95 Pharmacists and Pharmacies, Subchapter 10 Scope of Practice, Section 16-95-82 Valid Prescription. https://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/files/2013/08/har_95-c1.pdf. Accessed September 21, 2016.