

## EpiPen and EpiPen Jr Recall

The FDA issued a Class I recall on 3/31/2017 regarding EpiPen and EpiPen Jr Auto-Injector. Some of these devices may contain a defective part that may result in devices' failure to activate. 13 lots were identified – distributed between Dec 17, 2015, and July 1, 2016. Please visit the FDA website [press release](#) for more information. CHPW's preferred formulary products include generic epinephrine 0.15 mg/0.15 ml and 0.3 mg/0.3 ml auto-injectors.

## Prior Authorizations (PAs)

**Pharmacy:** Last year, Express Scripts partnered with CoverMyMeds to provide electronic prior authorization (PA) submission. Some features of CoverMyMeds are PA renewal reminders and an address book that stores and auto-fills all contact information. Visit [CoverMyMeds](#) to sign up!

**Care Management:** The Care Management Portal, <https://jiva.chpw.org/> allows expedited processing for authorization and referral requests and is the preferred method for submitting requests. Contact [Portal.Support@chpw.org](mailto:Portal.Support@chpw.org) for questions.

## Spirometry and Asthma Diagnosis

A recent study published in JAMA examined whether a diagnosis of current asthma could be ruled out and if asthma medications could safely be stopped in randomly selected adults with physician-diagnosed asthma. The study found that 33% of participants had no evidence of current asthma, among these, less than half had previous testing to confirm airflow limitation. This observation suggests that a **diagnosis of asthma, if not supported by spirometry, may be incorrect** and reinforces guideline recommendations that spirometry pre-and post-bronchodilator be obtained at the time of initial diagnosis of asthma. See full article in [JAMA](#).

## FDA Restriction of Codeine and Tramadol in Children

**The FDA now restricts the use of codeine and tramadol medications in children.** The FDA states that these medications carry serious risks, including slowed or difficult breathing and death. The risks appear to be a greater in children younger than 12 years, and thus should not be used in these children. The FDA is also recommending against the use of codeine and tramadol medications in breastfeeding mothers due to possible harm to their infants. For more information visit [FDA Drug Safety Communication](#).

## 2017 Pay for Performance

**2017 CHPW Pay for Performance measures are designed to include VBP measures:**

- Access to PCP (1-6, 7-19, 20+ years old)
- Patient Experience: PCP Listened Carefully
- Poor HbA1c Control (>9%)
- Blood Pressure Control with DM (<140/90)
- Controlling High Blood Pressure (<140/90)
- Antidepressant Medication Management – Effective Acute and Continuation Phase
- Child Immunization Status – Combo 10
- Well-child visits (3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th year)
- Asthma: Med Compliance 75% (Ages 5-11)
- Asthma: Med Compliance 75% (Ages 12-18)

## March P&T Changes

Drugs added to Formulary Status	
Basaglar	Nucynta (PA)
Vemlidy	Nucynta ER (PA)
Dantrolene (PA)	Tramadol ER (PA)
Zurampic (PA)	Imipramine caps (PA)
Cosentyx pens (PA)	Rivastigmine caps
Rabeprazole	Norditropin (PA)
Drugs Moved to Non-Formulary Status	
Humatrope	Desvenlafaxine

## Making Connections

We welcome your feedback and future topic ideas. Email us at: [PharmacyR@chpw.org](mailto:PharmacyR@chpw.org)