

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
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**CENTER FOR MEDICARE
MEDICARE PLAN PAYMENT GROUP**

DATE: February 11, 2014

TO: All Part D Plan Sponsors

FROM: Cheri Rice, Director
Medicare Plan Payment Group

SUBJECT: Prescription Drug Event (PDE) editing issue with barbiturate coverage in 2014

Beginning January 1, 2014, barbiturates that otherwise meet the definition of a Part D drug may be covered under Part D for any medically accepted indication. CMS has become aware of an issue causing incorrect rejections of some PDEs containing National Drug Codes (NDCs) for barbiturate drugs with dates of service (DOS) in 2014. The PDEs are receiving edit 738 - 'The NDC identifies a Part D Non-coverable Drug'. We have modified our system and sponsors can resubmit any affected PDEs, effective immediately.

Questions about this guidance can be submitted to CMS at PDEJan2011@cms.hhs.gov.