

## **Idaho Medicaid Awarded Academic Detailing Grant**

The Idaho Medicaid pharmacy program has been awarded a \$50,000 grant to fund an academic detailing pilot program. The program, which will operate during the 2009 calendar year in southwest and south central Idaho, will provide targeted educational outreach to prescribers of mental health medications.

Grant funding is provided by Pew Charitable Trust through Community Catalyst, a Massachusetts nonprofit agency that works with state and local organizations and policymakers to build quality, affordable healthcare programs. Idaho and its neighbor state Oregon were the only states nationwide selected for the program.

A factor driving the need for this program is verifiable patterns of inappropriate use and overuse of mental health medications that result in actual or potential adverse drug events. Also, from a cost standpoint, it is important to eliminate expense due to over prescribing and unnecessary prescribing as well as decrease associated costs resulting from inappropriate medication use.

“This program will provide a service to busy practitioners on up-to-date, non-biased information,” said Tami Eide, PharmD, supervisor of the Idaho Medicaid pharmacy unit. “It will also supply tools for patient care that they might not otherwise have time to access.”

Through the academic detailing program, Medicaid pharmacists will seek to strengthen evidence-based prescribing through one-to-one consultations with selected medical practitioners. Detailer visits will take place in the practitioner’s office, with a minimum of 85 visits expected by December 2009.

Focus will be on the appropriate use of drugs to treat ADHD, depression, bipolar disorder and psychosis. Appropriate use is defined as proper diagnosis, dose, avoidance of adverse events and avoidance of duplicative therapy.

Objectives for the academic detailing program include:

- Improvement of patient care
- Improvement of the overall health status of Idaho Medicaid participants
- Decrease of Idaho Medicaid drug costs
- Improved communication between the Department of Health and Welfare and health care practitioners
- Education of pharmacists within the outreach area on the need for and goals of the academic detailing program

For more information contact Medicaid Pharmacy Supervisor Tami Eide, PharmD, at 364-1821, or Bob Faller, Medical Program Specialist, at 364-1850.

