

## Follow Up Q&A from Round Table Webinar #1

Q: Regarding the emergency prescription drug rule, in reading the text of the rule and the explanation in the reasoned justification, it seems the intention is to regulate coverage of the dispensing of pharmaceuticals in pharmacies as prescribed under the pharmacy benefit and not the administration of drugs under the medical benefit. Is that correct?

For instance, a refill request is not something that falls under the medical benefit, but it is mentioned in the reasoned justification. Also, it says that the “rule limits exposure to public places by limiting trips to the pharmacy” which again is a pharmacy benefit and not a medical benefit.

A: Section 35.2(c) requires extension of established prior authorization approvals for pharmaceutical drugs, and does not waive prior authorization requirements for new requests. So to the extent that the carrier has already authorized the cost of the drug, that prior authorization has to be extended. Note that the rule addresses prior authorizations for drugs, and does not affect any prior authorization requirements for related services.