

**REPORT TO THE TWENTY-FOURTH HAWAII STATE
LEGISLATURE 2008**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF
SECTION 346-59.9, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES**

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
MED-QUEST DIVISION
January 2008**

**REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO THE
2008 HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF
SECTION 346-59.9, PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.**

Act 39, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, amended section 346-59.9, Psychotropic Medication, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), and Act 311, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, which amended Act 239, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005.

- 1) Act 39, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, amended section 346-59.9, HRS, to allow advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) with prescriptive authority under Chapter 457, to also prescribe psychotropic medications, along with licensed physicians and psychiatrists.
- 2) Section 5 of Act 239, SLH 2005, as amended by Act 311, SLH 2006, was amended by deleting the repeal date for the QUEST plans.

The reporting requirements for section 346-59.9 remain the same with just the inclusion of the APRNs. The following information is required:

- 1) The number of prescriptions written pursuant to section 346-59.9;
- 2) The cost and impact of psychiatrists, physicians, or APRNs prescribing medications pursuant to section 346-59.9 that are not part of the existing formulary; and
- 3) The overall utilization of psychotropic medication under chapter 346, HRS.

Medicaid Fee-For-Service Only

Medicaid Fee-For-Service Prescription Utilization: 2006 and 2007

Service Period	Average Number of Prescriptions Per Month			Average Payment Per Month		
	Psychiatrists	Other Physicians	Advanced Practice Registered Nurse	Psychiatrists	Other Physicians	Advanced Practice Registered. Nurse
01/01/06-06/30/06	4,049	1,568		\$954,276	\$96,052	
07/01/06-06/30/07	3,796	1,571		\$954,081	\$164,408	
07/01/07-09/31/07	3,800	1,855	177	\$988,212	\$280,011	\$37,626

Note: All claims for reimbursement can be submitted up to one year after their date of dispensing, therefore the numbers for the current year can change as claims are received and the numbers from last year's report have been revised to give the final numbers.

Medicare Part D was implemented on January 1, 2006 which transferred the costs of drugs from the State to the Federal government for about 25,000 Hawaii residents.

Act 311, SLH 2006, was implemented July 1, 2006, and removed the requirement that a licensed physician, who was not a psychiatrist consult, with a psychiatrist so before prescribing psychotropic medications. While this Act 311 amendment has caused little change in the average number of prescriptions per month, the impact of Act 311 has shown a shift to different medications and/or price increases in drug costs overall and a substantial average payment per month increase for "Other Physicians".

Act 39, SLH 2007, was implemented on July 1, 2007. For this report, only three months of data is available. While three months of data is not adequate for evaluation, the report does show an increase in the Average Number of Prescriptions per Month and the Average Payment per Month by "Other Physicians" has increased as well. A review of collected data is recommended after at least 9 months.

Medicaid QUEST Only

Act 311 was implemented July 1, 2006 which allowed unrestricted psychotropic medication coverage for Medicaid recipients in the QUEST program. AlohaCare QUEST, HMSA QUEST, and Kaiser QUEST have provided data below.

AlohaCare QUEST Prescription Utilization: 2006 and 2007

Service Period	Average Number of Prescriptions Per Month			Average Payment Per Month		
	Psychiatrists	Other Physicians	Advanced Practice Registered Nurse	Psychiatrists	Other Physicians	Advanced Practice Registered Nurse
01/01/06-06/30/06	361	320		\$74,128	\$14,885	
07/01/06-06/30/07	424	311		\$88,461	\$15,727	
07/01/07-09/31/07	411	341	2	\$92,672	\$27,475	\$290

HMSA QUEST Prescription Utilization: 2006 and 2007

Service Period	Average Number of Prescriptions Per Month			Average Payment Per Month		
	Psychiatrists	Other Physicians	Advanced Practice Registered Nurse	Psychiatrists	Other Physicians	Advanced Practice Registered Nurse
01/01/06-06/30/06	2,302	1,551		\$314,959	\$105,456	
07/01/06-06/30/07	2,956	2,212		\$382,907	\$120,228	
07/01/07-09/31/07	2,828	1,804	359	\$377,007	\$100,170	\$39,110

Kaiser QUEST Prescription Utilization: 2006 and 2007

Service Period	Average Number of Prescriptions Per Month			Average Payment Per Month		
	Psychiatrists	Other Physicians	Advanced Practice Registered Nurse	Psychiatrists	Other Physicians	Advanced Practice Registered Nurse
01/01/06-06/30/06	260	481		\$22,872	\$19,020	
07/01/06-06/30/07	206	432		\$21,009	\$17,854	
07/01/07-09/31/07	187	433	6	\$19,309	\$18,927	\$486

The Department observes that many non-psychiatrists have not, as yet, rushed to prescribe psychotropic medications for our QUEST clients, probably because these drugs are not part of their usual practice.

The Department believes the purpose of Act 239, Act 311 and Act 39 --"to improve access to psychotropic medication for Hawaii Medicaid clients" -- is being met as intended by the Legislature. The Department needs to review data over a longer period of time to demonstrate the effect on access for Medicaid and QUEST clients who are prescribed psychotropic medications by APRNs and by licensed physicians who are non-psychiatrists.