

## What's Hot: Important Updates

### Payer Updates

Below are a few highlights from recent payer newsletters (not all inclusive). Be sure to sign up to receive these communications directly with each payer to get the latest news, policy changes, tips and administrative updates.

**Anthem** shared important upcoming changes to their National Drug List (formulary), effective April 1, 2017. Visit their website for a [complete list](#) of the medications removed from the National Drug List and their preferred alternatives. If you have any questions, please contact the Provider Services phone number on the back of the member ID card.

Click [here](#) to sign up to receive Network eUPDATES. Anthem does not distribute newsletters directly, rather they are published every other month and are available online [here](#).

The MaineHealth ACO updated the contract with **Aetna**, moving the Medicare Advantage products from a messenger model agreement to a value based agreement. Aetna shared a policy update in their latest newsletter notifying providers that the Aetna Medicare Elite Plan (HMO) will require referrals beginning January 1, 2017. Members in this plan cannot be billed for services denied for 'no referral'. Aetna has added 'referral required' to member ID cards to help communicate this change, you may have also received a letter in the mail.

Click [here](#) to sign up to receive the quarterly Aetna newsletter.

**Harvard Pilgrim Health Care** has updated their Appeals Filing Limit for their Stride<sup>SM</sup> (HMO) Medicare Advantage Plan effective February 1, 2017. The new limit is 90 days from the date of the initial denial notice on your explanation of payment. You can contact their Medicare Advantage Provider Service Center at 1-888-609-0692 with questions.

Click [here](#) to sign up to receive the monthly Harvard Pilgrim Health Care newsletter.

### Updated Antidepressant Medication Prescribing Guide Now Available

MaineHealth Behavioral Health Integration and Maine Medical Center's Outpatient Psychiatry Department have teamed up to create an updated guide for prescribing antidepressant medications.

Designed for Primary Care Providers, this guide offers updated information on generic and brand names, dosages, side effects and other relevant information.

Psychiatrists Rosalind Gold, MD and Cindy Boyack, MD collaborated on updating the guide, which became available for publication as of December 2016 and can be accessed [here](#).

For questions and additional information, please email the MaineHealth Behavioral Health Integration team [here](#).

## H. Pylori Serology Testing Review

The MaineHealth Laboratory Stewardship Committee recently reviewed the literature surrounding H. pylori testing to promote best practice and reduce waste in laboratory testing. The Committee found that the H. pylori antigen serology test is neither sensitive nor specific and has proposed that the test be considered “non-orderable.”

In addition, Mayo Medical Laboratories has stopped performing this test, and many insurers are no longer reimbursing for its cost.

Effective March 1 2017, if providers attempt to order the H. pylori antigen serology test, they will be redirected to an order for the stool antigen test, and will receive the following message:

“This test is not offered due to poor sensitivity and specificity. The American College of Gastroenterology and the American Gastroenterological Association recommend either the H pylori stool antigen test or the Urea Breath Test as an initial diagnostic test for H pylori, or to establish cure post-treatment.”

For clinical questions or information, please contact [Dr. Tim Hayes](#).

## “From the First Tooth” Provides Technical Assistance and Quality Improvement Services to Medical Providers

**Did you know that February is Dental Health Awareness Month?** From the First Tooth (FTFT) is a statewide pediatric oral health initiative promoting the oral health of infants, toddlers and preschool children. This initiative was designed to assist primary care providers with the integration of early pediatric oral health into their practices.

FTFT launched eight years ago and has recruited, trained and provided technical assistance to 190 practices statewide. FTFT services are offered in partnership with the MaineHealth ACO, MaineHealth, MaineGeneral Health and EMHS. For more information on this program and its offerings, click [here](#).